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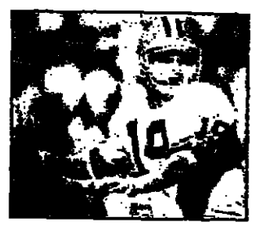
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Kleiner: We'll topple government over pullout decision

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), who heads the Land of Israel Front, yesterday warned Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu against taking a decision on a large-scale further redeployment during the Knesset recess, which starts today. "The six-week Knesset recess is not an indefinite period of time," Kleiner said.

He quoted National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon as saying that a withdrawal of beyond 6 percent would harm security interests and that a 10% pullback would endanger access to Ben-Gurion Airport.

"I fear there will be a government decision at the end of the week on about 10% – although it makes no difference if it is 9% or 13%, because under the Oslo Accords it is Israel alone which determines the size of the redeployment and it is not obligated to anything more than one symbolic dunam," Kleiner said.

"This [government decision] will be done on the assumption that during these six weeks there will be no no-confidence motions, and in this period some of my colleagues will be persuaded not to topple the government on the understanding that the alternative is worse, or perhaps with promises that construction will start on Har Homa," he added.

Kleiner said after the recess he would vote no-confidence in the prime minister, even on a motion filed by the opposition, if there is a large redeployment.

"There is no justification for the existence of a national camp government which, in the framework of the second further redeployment of an interim agreement, hands over 10% of Land of Israel territory," he said. "I hope there will be enough of my colleagues who will vote to bring the government down."

He noted that under current coalition circumstances, only a few Land of Israel Front votes were needed to add up to the 61 necessary to topple the government.

UN's Butler praises Iraqi cooperation

Chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler ended two days of talks in Iraq yesterday by praising Baghdad's new mood of cooperation, which he said could help him swiftly finish his work. Butler said his talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz this week had shown a welcome change from their last rancorous meeting in January.

"January was tough. That's for sure. Today was a light-year different," Butler said after a final meeting with Aziz in which he said progress was made towards accounting for missile warheads and chemical agents Iraq says it has destroyed.

Meanwhile, the man regarded as the architect of Iraq's germ weapons program was arrested in early March as he was planning to flee Iraq, *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

Nassir al-Hindawi is in an Iraqi prison after he was found with documents relating to the country's biological weapons program and evidence that he was about to leave the country illegally, Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's representative at the United Nations, said.

(News agencies)

Annan: Lebanon deal will take time



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu waves to reporters just before his joint press conference with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

UN chief to meet Husseini in Jerusalem

By JAY BUSHINSKY

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed the government's prospective endorsement of Security Council Resolution 425 on withdrawal from Lebanon yesterday and stood ready to make sure the pullout is "implemented efficiently." However, he warned that there will be a need for "discussions" and that this process "will take time."

Annan is scheduled to meet Palestinian Authority Jerusalem Affairs Minister Faisal Husseini in Jerusalem today, but there is an argument as to where the meeting should take place.

PA officials have insisted on Orient House in eastern Jerusalem, but Annan said he preferred UN headquarters at Government House or the girls' school near Orient House so as to avoid embarrassing Israel. Foreign Ministry liaison personnel advised Annan's entourage that a visit by Annan to Orient House would trigger an unpleasant diplomatic incident.

A final venue had still not been set as of midnight last night.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Annan said a Lebanon deal "will not happen overnight." Netanyahu encouraged Annan's optimistic outlook by expressing the hope that his cabinet will formally approve Resolution 425 at a special session to be convened next Wednesday.

"This will be the first time in 20 years that the cabinet will adopt Resolutions 425 and 426," he went on, referring to the Security Council's call for the evacuation of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory and the follow-up outline of measures to be undertaken to assure security after departure.

"We will remove the IDF in conditions of security," Netanyahu said.

Annan's upbeat comments came towards the end of his first day here, during which he met President Ezer Weizman and conferred with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on the 425 initiative.

He said he was "encouraged by what I heard on this trip," implying that his meetings with Lebanese and Syrian leaders confirmed that the regional consensus is in favor of peace. "There is skepticism about peace," he said, "but there is hope. The respective governments have made a strategic choice for peace and their peoples want it. I will do whatever I can to assist the process. I appeal to all the parties to move the peace process forward."

Netanyahu injected a note of political realism when he said: "I hope Syria won't pose difficulties over the long run." On the other hand, he was confident about the Lebanese Army's ability to take charge in southern Lebanon.

Annan agreed unequivocally. "The Lebanese government is effective," he said, "and the Lebanese Army has been professionalized and is doing well."

Turning to the ongoing effort to make headway toward peace with the Palestinians, Netanyahu defended his government's parameters for the next pullback in the West Bank – generally believed to be between 9 percent and 10%.

"We did not come up with a formula from midair," he said. "We built it from the ground up."

He stressed the importance of retaining terrain vital to security and especially the safety of the settlers. This included retention of overland routes used "by 40,000 schoolchildren daily," military installations, and strategic positions.

Annan recommended a softer approach to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, who he said is coping with the security issue, but "too much pressure makes things difficult for him."

"Peace reinforces security and security reinforces peace," he said.

In a rejoinder, Netanyahu recalled the commitment made by the US in the Hebron Agreement, according to which Israel retained the exclusive right to determine prerequisites for its security. "Israel and Israel alone dictates its security needs," he said.

Advocating direct negotiations and deploring the resort to mediators, Netanyahu contended that the Palestinians should not expect others – the US or the UN – to solve their problems. He cited the positive outcome of direct talks with Egypt and the Madrid conference as successful examples. "The UN can give us encouragement," he said, but it cannot be a substitute for direct talks.

Asked about his successful defusing of the Iraqi crisis, Annan said the Iraqi leadership made a long-term agreement to cooperate with the UN. He took satisfaction in saying that UN inspectors "have been allowed to go to places to which they had been denied access for the past seven years."

Delighting Netanyahu, Annan said, "The only agreement worth its salt is an agreement that is implemented, not one that exists only on paper." Netanyahu immediately applied it to the Oslo Accords.

See ANNAN, Page 2

Schroeder urges compliance with Oslo, Page 2

Arafat at Arab summit: Peace process is 'taking its last breaths'

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and news agencies

Addressing the opening session of the Arab League foreign ministers forum in Cairo yesterday, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat declared that the peace process is "taking its last breaths."

Arafat accused Israel of blocking progress and urged the Arab world to convene an emergency summit to "shoulder its responsibilities to protect our people, our land, and the future of our generations."

He said that if there are problems in convening the entire Arab community, attempts should be made to organize a minimum summit.

"I repeat my call to convene an urgent Arab summit to review the situation," Arafat said. "The peace process is going through a dangerous phase and is taking its last breaths. I hold the international community responsible for the protection of the Palestinian people."

The Arab foreign ministers angrily rejected the policies of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as being against the spirit of peace.

"All ministers feel angry because of Netanyahu's anti-peace policy," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said. "They reject provocative and aggressive statements by him and his defense minister.

"The foreign ministers' council is studying the best way to express this annoyance and strong condemnation," he said.

"The Israeli government is clearly going to reject any ideas or initiatives that can revive the peace process," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters after the meeting.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez slammed what he said were Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's threats to attack Lebanon unless it agrees to terms of an Israeli withdrawal.

"Threatening Lebanon is an illusion," he said. "Israel is living in a swamp in the south, and not the other way round."

Meanwhile, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine published a leaflet condemning the US for retracting its proposal and claimed that its actions are biased. The leaflet called on the US to present an initiative that will include settlements as soon as possible.

PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman said the credibility of the US is at stake. "Why doesn't the US present an initiative that will compel Israel to implement the accords?"

While UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's visit to the region and PA areas has given the peace process a push forward,

Rahman said it is clear that without a US or European initiative the entire process would collapse.

'Titanic' steams to 11 Oscars

By TOM TUGEND and news agencies

LOS ANGELES – The headline honors went to *Titanic* and the stars of *As Good As It Gets*, at the 70th annual Academy Awards, but two Oscars in less glamorous categories illustrated the continuing impact of the Holocaust and its aftermath on filmmakers.

The 3-hour-plus epic *Titanic* – which at one time seemed as doomed as its real-life inspiration – steamed off with 11 Oscars, tying with 1959's *Ben-Hur* for the most awards.

Many critics had predicted that with production costs of more than $200 million, the movie was going to be a financial flop. But in Hollywood, where box-office is all that matters, the critics could not have been more wrong – in 14 weeks, it has sold more than $1.2 billion in tickets worldwide.

Helen Hunt was anointed Hollywood's new heroine for *As Good as It Gets*, and newcomers Matt Damon and Ben Affleck were recognized for *Good Will Hunting*.

Jack Nicholson won his third acting Oscar for *As Good as It Gets* and Robin Williams (*Good Will Hunting*) and Kim Basinger (*L.A. Confidential*) each won their first – for supporting roles – on a night that saw no real upsets.

The Long Way Home took the prize as the best documentary feature for producers Rabbi Marvin Hier and Richard Trank of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The film chronicles the fate of Holocaust survivors in the immediate post-war years and their desperate attempts to reach Palestine.

All the winners, Page 9

In his acceptance speech, Hier dedicated the award to "the survivors of the Holocaust, who walked away from the ashes, rebuilt their lives, and helped create the State of Israel."

Host Billy Crystal seemed dumbfounded at Hier's presence, observing, "What a night, when your rabbi wins an Oscar. Unbelievable."

It was the second Oscar for the Wiesenthal Center, whose very first documentary, *Genocide*, won in 1981.

The production team of *Long Way Home*, including writer-director Mark Jonathan Harris, is rushing to complete the official film of Israel's 50th anniversary celebration, titled *If You Will It*.

The true story of a diplomat who paid with his career for saving thousands of Jews won an Oscar for the short film *Visas and Virtue*. It honors Chiune Sugihara, who was the Japanese consul in Vilna, Lithuania in 1940. As throngs of desperate Jews besieged his office to escape the on expected Nazi onslaught, Sugihara, against the direct orders of Tokyo, wrote out thousands of visas to enable Jews to escape to safety via the then neutral Soviet Union.

The film was produced by Irish-American Chris Donahue and Japanese-American Chris Tashima, who plays the role of Sugihara.

'Orange juice stops arteries clogging'

By JUDY SIEGEL

Drinking three glasses of fresh orange or other citrus juice a day can help reduce the risk of developing atherosclerosis – the clogging of arteries with fatty plaque, which can lead to heart disease or stroke – according to a study conducted among students at a hesder yeshiva in Gush Etzion.

The department of human nutrition and metabolism at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, which previously investigated the effects of the "Mediterranean diet" on disease, carried out a three-month clinical study on freshly squeezed orange juice. The subjects were 36 healthy male students, 18 to 23, at the Har Etzion Yeshiva in Alon Shvut who go on home leave only once a month and eat solely in the yeshiva cafeteria.

The study, headed by Prof. Elliot Berry, was supported by a grant from the Israel Citrus Marketing Board, which provided a squeezing machine and the fruit, but Berry said his research was conducted without influence by the board.

The findings, among the first in the world to show a clear effect of vitamin C on the levels of LDL (low-density lipoprotein, or "bad cholesterol"), was published in the February edition of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

The students, who were enthusiastic about the experiment, were fed diets typical of the Mediterranean region, but half of them also drank three glasses of freshly squeezed orange juice a day and the other half didn't (the juice-drinking group continued their diet on their short home leaves.) This amount of juice is six times the recommended daily allotment of vitamin C. None suffered any negative side effects.

The juice-drinking group had three times more of the water-soluble vitamin in their bloodstream than the control group, whose diet contained only the recommended daily requirement of vitamin C. LDL particles in the juice-drinking group were significantly more stable than those in the control group. When LDL breaks down, it tends to clump on artery walls in a condition called atherosclerosis, which can lead to vessel narrowing, heart attacks, and stroke.

Berry said that despite many studies on the role of vitamin C – an antioxidant – in slowing the development of cancer and other diseases, its function as a stabilizer of LDL and protection against heart disease has not been as well established as the protective role of vitamin E, another antioxidant that neutralizes oxygen free radicals. But the yeshiva study confirms it has this effect.

Since only fresh orange juice was tested, Berry could not say for certain whether frozen juice or reconstituted juice – or, for that matter, vitamin C pills – would have the same effect. Vitamin C is known to dissipate when exposed to oxygen in the air. But he was certain that other fresh citrus juices would have the same effect, as they are also rich in natural fiber, which may also have an effect.

NEWS
in brief

Two brothers murdered in Jaffa

Two brothers were murdered last night in Jaffa. They were killed in a drive-by shooting on Rehov Ben-Tsvi. Police gave no other details and are investigating the murders. *Itim*

Mordechai, Ross to meet in Miami

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and US envoy Dennis Ross will meet in Miami today, before Ross leaves for the Middle East, an Israeli embassy spokeswoman said yesterday. The spokeswoman said she did not have any further details.

The State Department said on Monday the aim of Ross's trip would be to "finalize" US ideas on the next steps toward peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Department spokesman James Foley said Ross would meet Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. *Reuters*

Mordechai urges IDF restraint on Land Day

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday issued orders that security forces are to avoid conflict with Palestinians on Land Day later this month. The instructions are aimed at preventing the outbreak of severe unrest on the day Israeli Arabs and Palestinians commemorate land confiscations.

The orders was given during a meeting of the Territories Forum, which includes top IDF, police, and other security officials. According to his office, Mordechai instructed that all soldiers, police and Border Police be briefed to avoid friction or conflict with demonstrators and not to create tensions. But he also ordered that security forces be deployed to prevent unrest. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

45% of post-'67 localities in territories

Recently published findings from the 1995 population and housing census show that 28 percent of Jewish localities in Israel were established after 1967, 45% of them in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. The report, released by the Central Bureau of Statistics, was compiled from the findings of the five population surveys carried out since 1948, the last in 1995. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Palestinian Christians get to mark annunciation

Israel yesterday said it will allow thousands of Palestinian Christians from the West Bank and Gaza into Israel in order to mark the annunciation.

Shlomo Dror, coordinator in the territories, said married Christians over 25 and youths under 16 would be given one-day permits to enter today and travel to Jerusalem or Nazareth. He said some 12,000 Christians were expected to cross into Israel for the occasion. *AP*

'Post' columnist wins Sokolov prize

Jerusalem Post columnist and former *Ma'ariv* editor Moshe Zak was awarded the Nahum Sokolov Prize yesterday at a ceremony at Beit Sokolov in Tel Aviv. Sever Plotzker, Doron Rosenbloom and Michael Handelzaltz each won a prize of NIS 7,000 for excellence in print journalism. Carmela Menashe, Moshe Negbi and Rafik Halaby won prizes for excellence in broadcast media. *Itim*

Three killed in Arkansas shoot-out

At least three people were killed and about a dozen were wounded when two boys opened fire on students at a middle school in Jonesboro, Arkansas yesterday, officials said.

Arkansas State Police said three people were killed, two of them girls and that at least 13 people were injured.

An official at the Westside Middle School said someone apparently set off a fire alarm at the school and the shooting began when the children were led outside.

A spokesman for Arkansas State Police, said two boys were arrested but declined to confirm television reports that they were aged 11 and 13. *Reuters*

Schroeder urges adherence to Oslo

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The president of the upper house of Germany's Parliament, Gerhard Schroeder, expressed regret yesterday that the Middle East peace process is "ailing" and called on Israel and the Palestinian Authority to "comply with the Oslo Accords."

Schroeder, who also serves as prime minister of Lower Saxony and is the opposition Social-Democratic party's candidate for chancellor in September's national election, evidently declared that "people were hoping for a better life after Oslo."

However, he went on, "the peace dividend is not being paid," describing this state of affairs as "deplorable." The charismatic German politician who has been outpacing incumbent Chancellor Helmut Kohl in several public opinion polls, defended his right to criticize Israel as something that "must be possible between partners."

Schroeder contended that criticism must not be interpreted as hostility towards Israel.

He told the Israel Council on Foreign Relations that Israel is the first country he has visited since becoming president of the Bundesrat (upper house). His topic was the economic benefits of peace.

Because the peace process is at "a standstill," he said, small and medium-sized companies are reluctant to invest in Israel and the PA. On the other hand, he said, peace would spawn economic growth and affluence, especially within the PA's domain, would discourage extremism and violence.

He noted that Germany is Israel's second-biggest trading partner after the US and that 32.1 percent of Israel's exports go to the European Union.

"We want to support Israel in the European Union," he said, "but we are limited due to the EU's structure. At the same time he recommended that "Israel should make it easier for us to give our backing by complying with the Oslo Accords."

At a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, he was assured that Israel believes the EU can play can play an important role in the peace process, especially with regard to the multilateral talks.

Netanyahu said that there has been an improvement in the Palestinians' economic situation as a result of an increase in the number of permits issued for work in Israel.

At the bilateral level, the prime minister said it was essential for Israel and Germany to maintain good relations in all areas. He stressed the need to "deepen" the study of the Holocaust in Germany's younger generation.



Gerhard Schroeder, president of the upper house of Germany's Parliament, covers his head yesterday at the entrance to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

Mordechai to appoint new chief of staff soon

By EITAN RABIN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai may begin a round of IDF appointments when he returns from a trip this week to the US, senior military officials said yesterday.

Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i, who is considered a leading candidate to be the next chief of general staff, recently returned from abroad, where he is studying, and met privately with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, apparently to discuss his career and whether or not he would be appointed to the IDF's highest post.

Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz has also held private discussions with the prime minister about his military future.

The assessment is that Mordechai would prefer Mofaz over Vilna'i, but that he may surprise everyone and appoint Maj.-Gen. (res.) Ilan Biran, the director-general of the Defense Ministry.

A senior military official said that "it wouldn't be without precedent for a general who has retired to resume service... and it would not be inconceivable for the defense minister to prefer Ilan Biran."

He noted that the police Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk had been returned to active duty for his recent appointment.

If Biran or Mofaz wins the appointment, Vilna'i would likely be forced to retire.

It is considered likely that Mordechai will start his round of appointments by naming an OC Northern Command to replace Amiram Levine, who was recently named deputy head of the Mossad.

A leading candidate is OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon.

Neeman, Pollard and heavy security

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BUTNER, North Carolina – The metal doors of the Federal Correctional Institution slide open and Minister of Finance Yaakov Neeman walks off to see Jonathan Pollard.

Such a visit means another guest, US Navy security officer Eric Johnson – sent from Washington to assure that, 13 years after his incarceration for passing naval intelligence to Israel, Pollard passes no more – also will be present.

The inmate waits outdoors, wearing a light brown jacket in the morning chill.

He has his back to us as we approach, but is immediately identifiable by the kippa perched atop his long brown hair.

The group arranges metal chairs around two small coffee tables in a large room with vending machines lining the walls. Pollard is admitted from the other side and kisses his wife, Esther, who flew in from Toronto. Smiling, he heartily shakes the hands of the visiting Israeli officials and journalists.

He ignores Johnson.

The visit is evidence of the Israeli government's new policy toward Pollard.

For the first time, ministers visiting the US meet with him. The embassy's congressional affairs attache, Yitzhak Oren, is here, too. He recently was designated as the embassy's first-ever liaison to Pollard. Pollard's previous meetings with the Israeli government were held only with Atlanta consular officials, whose jurisdiction covers this part of the South.

Pollard settles into his chair and methodically delivers a 40-minute monologue. He has a lot to say, and says it, but isn't at all rushed. Like a college professor, he ticks off his points, prefacing them by stating, for example, that there are three things to say about this and four about that.

There are no wasteful uhs and uhms to segue from one statement to the next.

No one else speaks except for Neeman, who interjects questions here and there, like asking whether the prison provides him with kosher meals; Pollard answers "No." Throughout, Neeman's spokeswoman and two journalists quietly rise and snap photographs, taking care not to include Johnson, as naval intelligence specified in its two pages of conditions. No Hebrew is allowed to be spoken, and I wince when Neeman or Pollard throw in an occasional expression, thinking that Johnson will assume the worst and end the session then and there.

All the while, Pollard, dressed in a brown short-sleeve khaki shirt, tan slacks and white sneakers, grasps Esther's right hand. His graying beard occasionally approaches the white sticker above his left breast pocket that states Pollard's name and 09185-016, his prisoner number.

Serious as he is, Pollard enjoys a few laughs. He jokes about how something he said shows his "Litvak side." His round face evinces appreciation when Neeman tells him that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sends his regards.

The meeting started almost 30 minutes late because of a mix-up over whether Esther Pollard was cleared to attend. The warden, Harley Lappin, had appeared in the lobby and cleared it up. Then each visitor's papers had to be put in order, several times. Neeman was none too happy about being compelled to sign too, curtly telling the escort that an American cabinet secretary would not be subject to such treatment in Israel. Then the sequence of security checks.

As a result of the delays, it is not a prison official but Neeman who ends the session, saying he has a plane to catch for New York. He presents Pollard with a black, soft-covered prayer book, and shows him its Hebrew inscription, "With the Blessing of the Freeing of Prisoners." He turns to the back and points out Nachmanides' prayer: "Every day that you will read this leaflet, Heaven will answer whatever requirements you have." Pollard puts the book down. It must go through a security check before he can claim it.

There are more photographs – posed shots of Pollard shaking someone's hand.

Jonathan and Esther embrace. He heads out his door, we out ours. The group walks down the corridor. Pollard, with his back to the glass again, puts his coat back on and walks off into the courtyard, not once looking back.

Mevasseret not keen on joining capital

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Eli Moyal, the head of the Mevasseret Zion Local Council, is fighting mad at the reported proposal to extend Jerusalem's municipal boundaries westward to Latrun. He said yesterday that Mayor Ehud Olmert will not succeed with the plan.

"The citizens of Mevasseret are opposed to the idea of annexation," he said. "There's no way that we'll allow a law extending Jerusalem's boundaries at the expense of Mevasseret, Abu Gosh, and Kiryat Telstone like that to be placed on the Knesset agenda and passed, a law. What we have to do is to demonstrate to [Olmert] that he's not going to get the law passed. We have to go the MKs and tell them not to vote for it."

Moyal said the canvassing of MKs for support has already begun, with positive results.

"There are two government ministers who live in Mevasseret – Tzahi Hanegbi and Yitzhak Mordechai – and we'll activate Ran Cohen and all those willing to help. Those to whom we've started talking have already expressed willingness to help us."

The new plan, which in essence has been floated before over the years, was first reported on Channel 2 on Monday night. It involves a concerted effort between Olmert and the Prime Minister's Office to arrange for proposing a bill in the Knesset on Yom Ha'atzma'ut to annex peripheral areas to Jerusalem as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

According to the plan, the aforementioned communities, as well as Kiryat Ye'arim, Tzur Hadassah, and others would be included in the Jerusalem Municipality to further strengthen Israel's claim to the city.

City Councilwoman Anat Hoffman (Meretz) said the idea offers little to the residents of Mevasseret.

"Jerusalem certainly has something to gain from moving to the west, but usually deals succeed when both sides have something to gain," Hoffman said. "Mevasseret has a wonderful school system; they've established a very nice understanding between the Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative communities; there is much less violence, much less conflict. I really don't see why they would want to become a suburb of an already overwhelming city. From their point of view, it's a really bad idea."

Olmert defended the idea, saying: "There's no use in having a chain of local councils when you can subordinate them under one Jerusalem authority."

Liat Collins adds:

Environmentalists also object to the plan, saying it threatens the nature of Jerusalem and the future of the rapidly decreasing green areas in the center of the country.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, other green groups, and local residents said yesterday they would do all legally possible to thwart the plan.

The city is already the size of greater Paris and twice the size of Tel Aviv, said the SPNI's Avraham Shaked, "and it has not fully used the development potential in the city itself, not to mention the new areas annexed to it under the recommendations of the Kubersky Committee in 1993, which include 15,000 dunams of green land in the Judean Hills."

He said the annexation of more land and communities in the Judean Hills will lead to the development of a continuous urban strip, turning the area into a dense urban bloc reaching out to Beit Shemesh, Modi'in, and eventually the Tel Aviv area, destroying natural assets, landscape, and sites of historic and cultural importance.

Shaked said Jerusalem's problems stem from poor management and a "policy of no-planning, ignoring professional recommendations and master plans because of the continuous pressures of entrepreneurs and real-estate wheeler-dealers."

Tent-city dwellers brace for evacuation

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Four families living in the tent encampment across from the Prime Minister's Office moved out yesterday, but returned after being escorted by city officials to a hostel on Jaffa Road.

"There were many whores staying there," one tenant said.

The 17 families remained at their makeshift neighborhood last night while police and city officials stood by. A large moving truck was positioned by the entrance waiting to take the families' possessions for storage, but when it was clear by 10:15 p.m. that no other family would be leaving on their own, the truck left.

Last week the homeless families were given until today to move out.

"The people who came back are going to have to be dragged out," said Jenny Sosson, a two-year resident of the tent city.

It was unclear when a forced evacuation would begin. The tenants were relatively confident that they would not be disturbed overnight, but would face their moment of truth early this morning.

Tree arson suspect said motivated by sex

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

One of three young men arrested Monday night on suspicion of setting fire to palm trees in the Dan region told police he did it for "sexual gratification," a senior officer said yesterday.

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court last night extended the remand of one suspect, aged 20, for six days, and of two others, aged 18 and 20, for four days.

Police said they face a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

The arrests were made after a unit was assigned to stake out the Zahala area, believed the arsonists' favorite playground, after a spate of tree arsons in recent weeks, which have felled more than 100 palm trees. Some of the fires spread to nearby residential buildings.

"The leader of the group is a pyromaniac who derives sexual gratification and reaches an orgasm when the palm tree goes up in flames," Brig-Gen. Avi Aviv of the Dan investigation squad said yesterday after the arrests were announced.

"It's the combination of the dark, drops of rain and the sparks flying off the burning palm trees that aroused him sexually," he added.

"The other two are just hangers on. The leader, who has a dominant personality, must have persuaded them to cooperate with him."

The arrests were made close to midnight on Monday after a call came in about a burning palm tree. Police arrived on the scene in time to catch the suspects, smelling of gasoline and in possession of incendiary materials.

Police sources said the three suspects are unemployed.

According to police, the suspects have admitted setting fire to 18 palm trees.

They also told about how they used a long stick to spread gasoline on the dry part of a palm trunk to make the tree burn more rapidly.

ANNAN

Continued from Page 1

Arieh O'Sullivan adds:

Annan appeared to accept his initiative on south Lebanon, Mordechai said. Speaking after their meeting, Mordechai said Annan promised to examine the proposal. "I raised my initiative on Lebanon and I detailed its principles, the main one is that Lebanon and the Lebanese Army are to be responsible for security, that the rights of the SLA and the people of south Lebanon be preserved. If it will be proven that security, law, and order in Lebanon are kept, then we will carry out a redeployment until we reach the international border."

Batsheva Tsur adds:

Annan last night promised that he would do his best to obtain updated information about the fate of the MIAs. Annan took time off his busy schedule to hold a short meeting with members of the families of missing soldiers at the King David Hotel. He told them he would be in touch with the Lebanese, Syrian, and Iranian authorities about the matter. Earlier yesterday, Annan met the family of missing air force navigator Ron Arad.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. H.E Rafael Angel Alfaro Pineda, Ambassador of El Salvador will speak on "From War to Peace".

The unveiling of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother

JENNY (Shaidel) SORSCHER ע"ה

will take place Friday, March 27, 1998 at Har Hamenuchot Helka Hasidim at 10 a.m.

A bus will leave from Concord Hotel, Malchei Yisrael 36, at 9:30 a.m. RSVP: 08-9741006

The Sorscher Family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother

AMUMA (Bat Ezra) SHEMESH

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, March 25, 1998 (27 Adar 5758), at 12 noon, at the Herzliya cemetery, Rehov Pinsker

Her son: **Farouk Shemesh and family**

IDUD LTD.
Announcement
The offices of Idud will be closed tomorrow, Thursday, March 26, 1998, due to a one-day seminar for employees.
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Haifa District Court told:

Ex-IDF tracker stole command car, arms for PA

A former IDF tracker, Ibrahim Gadir, 27, of Halaf-Tivon, was charged yesterday in Haifa District Court with espionage, theft, and the illegal possession and sale of arms.

According to the charge sheet, early last month Gadir contacted Yihye Kadous, an official with Palestinian Preventive Security in Nablus, who had expressed an interest in obtaining machine guns, shoulder-fired missiles which could shoot down helicopters, and other weapons and ammunition.

On the night of February 6, Gadir and Salameh Ouda, of Houara, near Nablus, met at the Taibe checkpoint and traveled to an IDF post near Rosh Hanikra.

Gadir, wearing an insulated IDF jumpsuit and a fatigue cap, – winter clothing typically worn by soldiers serving in the area, – presented himself to sentries at the gate, told them he was a soldier serving in the area and that his jeep was stuck in the sand nearby.

He said he needed a heavily armed command car, used for border patrols, to extricate it.

He was admitted into the base, and proceeded to fake a telephone conversation with the battalion transport officer, after which he told the sentries his use of the command car had been authorized. He then took the command car, which was equipped with three heavy machine guns, a 52 mm. mortar, ammunition, and other equipment, some of which was classified, and drove off the base.

Somewhere outside the base, he picked up Ouda and they drove to a spot along the border where they stripped the command car of its weapons, ammunition, and other equipment, including some of the classified material, and loaded into their vehicle, which they then drove to Nablus, where they proceeded to sell the stolen weaponry and equipment to Kadous for NIS 9,000 and "very many" Jordanian dinars.

The espionage charge relates to the classified equipment from the command car which was sold to a Palestinian Authority intelligence agency.

Gadir has also been charged with helping with the theft of heavy equipment from a construction site while serving as a supervisor for a private security firm, and with involvement in the theft of medicines from a pharmacy in Kiryat Tivon.

Both crimes were committed last month. (Itim)

GSS arrests Palestinians suspected of murdering yeshiva student

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Palestinians recently arrested on suspicion of murdering yeshiva student Gavriel Hershberg and seriously wounding Binyamin Gil in Jerusalem's Old City in November told interrogators they planned the attack well in advance.

The IDF announced yesterday that the General Security Service, in cooperation with the police, recently arrested the suspected gunman and his accomplice.

Gil and Hershberg were leaving their studies at Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva when they were shot.

According to the IDF, the gunman was identified as Iman Sharbati, 31, from Abu Dis near Jerusalem. He confessed that he and Ghaja Hadad, 19, had decided to attack Jewish targets. The two observed the movements of the students at their yeshiva and decided to attack them at night in the empty alleys.

On November 20, Hadad, who lives in the Old City, served as a lookout and informed Sharbati that the pair were headed his way. Sharbati then jumped out and opened fire at them with a Kalashnikov rifle from a few meters away and fled. The wounded Gil managed to make his way to National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's home in the Moslem Quarter to summon help, but medics could not revive the mortally wounded Hershberg.

In his questioning, Sharbati said he purchased the weapon from a gun dealer near Hebron. The army has since recovered the Kalashnikov. They had planned to carry out a number of shootings with the gun, the army said.

Sharbati had once been imprisoned by Israel in the late 1980s for stone-throwing, arson and hurling firebombs. He said he had been inducted into a local organization with a religious bent, but IDF officials did not reveal to which movement he was referring.

Yossi Baumol, head of Ateret Cohanim, said he didn't think these two were the only ones connected to the gang. "They better keep looking and make sure they find everybody who is involved in these things," he said. "We're not letting down our guard in the meantime, because we're not convinced the entire group has been discovered. We still have in force the stricter security rules for the students."

Baumol said Dil will shortly undergo a third plastic surgery operation to reconstruct his jaw, and he is expected to return to the yeshiva full time after Pessah.



Civil defense drill

Pupils at the Yitzhak Rabin Elementary simulate dealing with casualties during yesterday's civil defense exercise at educational institution's nationwide. The exercise was organized by the Education Ministry and the IDF's Home Front Command, with the assistance of the police.

(Ilan Ossendryver Israel Sun)

IDF prison riot ringleader gets 27 months

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Sergei Kaufman was sentenced yesterday to 27 months in prison plus a suspended sentence for being a ringleader of the rebellion at Military Prison No. 6 last August.

Kaufman was the last of 18 soldiers tried for the mutiny and sentenced by the General Staff Military Court. He was convicted of establishing contact with the media and making threats against the guards who were taken hostage during the revolt.

Kaufman has been serving a three-and-a-half-year sentence for manslaughter, stealing a car, and reckless driving.

Provost-Marshal Brig.-Gen. Niram Goldbrum said the prison riot actually led to improvements in military prison conditions. "I think the event of August 1997 brought to general awareness that significant improvements had to be made," he said. He said the improvements were made in prison conditions both for prisoners and guards.

Military Police gets royal blue berets

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

"They came in pairs, at night, dogtrotting heavy-footed, clubs swinging silently, wherever soldiers ever lived. And the air of fear they carried with them went before them always, the Law." – *From Here to Eternity*, James Jones.

As of this morning, military policemen will be donning royal blue berets as the IDF introduces its newest color headgear.

In an effort to boost its image as a kindlier, gentler force, the Military Police gave up its white helmets almost nine years ago.

By getting their own the color beret, the corps joins, at least in appearance, crack IDF units.

"I think this will add pride to military policemen and to the whole corps," said Provost-Marshal Brig.-Gen. Niram Goldbrum. "External symbols, you know, evoke a sense of pride."

Goldbrum said he has worked on getting the Military Police berets of its own color for over six years, until finally getting the approval from Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

"It puts us on the map. We are no different than the other corps," Goldbrum said.

The IDF now has nine different color berets.

Red for paratroopers, brown for Golani, purple for Givati, green for Nahal, turquoise for engineers, black for armor and artillery, light blue for air force, and khaki for the rest.

IDF trains soldiers to investigate cyber crimes

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Soldiers are being trained to investigate cyber crimes in the army, Col. Miki Barel, the head of the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division revealed yesterday.

"We are starting to see buds of this today, and we have to improve our capability of investigating" cyber crimes, Barel said.

"We are preparing for future investigations in the field of computers in light of the fact that we expect computer-related crimes to rise as the use of computers grows," he told military reporters.

Barel said IDF detectives are being trained in computer studies in order to better understand and investigate crimes linked with computers. He said that until soldiers on full-time duty are trained, cyber investigations will be done by reserve soldiers.

"We are preparing for it in order to deal with these situations in the most professional way we can," he said.

Barel said that stealing information is not under his division's authority, but rather that of Field Security. Still, he said, his unit is expected to investigate any suspected information offense.

He said that the IDF still has not encountered any instances of fraud or misinformation being put into IDF computers.

The meeting with the head of the Military Police Crimes Investigation Division represented one of the very few times Barel has met with the media. In a review of the division's activities, Barel said it is witnessing a rise in drug-related crimes in the IDF. He said there was a 4 percent increase in suspected drug offenders, and that there were 16% more files opened on the matter last year compared to 1996.

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Interrogation's over, questions arise

The end of a year-long judicial marathon, which may well go down in Israel's history as "a Russian mafia trial," has stirred much commentary in the Russian-language press.

A *Novosti Nedeli* editorial stressed that "this judicial agreement between prosecutors and the defendant was advantageous mainly to the prosecution, which was accused of using [Gregory]Lerner, [Zvi Ben-Ari], only to prove the "existence of a Russian mafia."

Now, after Ben-Ari, "everybody who even last week cried that Lerner is a modern-day Dreyfus should bite their tongues. Now in Jerusalem a trial has begun against an Israeli citizen who confessed to having committed crimes. It is not a trial against the Russian community."

Pointing out that Ben-Ari confessed to 13 counts of financial crimes and fraud, estimated at $50 million, Efraim Ganor said in *Nasha Strana* that Lerner is no angel, but that such criminals "have already existed in Israel under the epithet of 'white-collar' criminals," yet they were not kept in a maximum security cell like Lerner."

The main question now is why the prosecutors did not explain to the public what and whom they were talking about. Instead, the impression was created that Ben-Ari posed a threat to democracy. Ganor asks if the perpetrators of this image "considered the damage it would cause relations between Israelis and Russian immigrants."

Perhaps by chance, the end of the Ben-Ari investigations coincided with published official data that the level of criminality among Russian immigrants is significantly lower than the national average.

In *Vesti*, Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, remarking on this statement made by high police officials in a government setting, accused the Israeli media of having mounted a "very aggressive" campaign which "did much to create an erroneous image of Russian aliya.

Journalists, using their own 'sources' – namely the police – caused great damage to the image of immigrants from the CIS and their absorption process," he said.

Peace for Generations vs. Peace Now

Referring to Nahum Barnea's article in *Yediot Aharonot*, that there are more right-wingers than leftists among Israelis, Sofia Ron wrote in *Vesti* that there is a strange configuration on the Israeli political map.

She said that "the people are on the Right, but the sources of financing are on the Left; therefore there is a lot of room for Left and non-partisan movements, such as Dor Shalom and Peace Now, whereas right-wing movements have to struggle to exist."

The movement Peace for Generations arose in 1994 in reaction to the Oslo Agreements. Its leader, British-born Daniel Yosef, of Tekoa, says, "We would like to promise peace with the Palestinians, but to have peace, you need two sides."

Movement activists collected many segments from Palestinian TV educational programs which proclaim "we will return to Jaffa and Lod."

In a series of such programs aimed at schoolchildren, the main subject is the liberation of all Palestine.

They praise suicide bombers and encourage viewers to follow their example. Ron cited many such sample statements, like "Holy martyrs, we don't say good-bye: we'll meet in paradise."

A video with the most recent program was shown to a special US Senate committee, which is planning to demand that Washington stop financing PA television.

But in their own country, Peace for Generations can't counterbalance Peace Now.

The Israeli media sympathizes with the latter, publishing in detail many of its activities. Peace for Generations, according to Ron, has no access to Channel 1.

Ron concludes that "In Israel, children are taught about peace and concessions. Any other approach is considered politically incorrect. Whereas on PA educational TV, one can hear appeals to kill Jews."

He adds that "Peace for Generations is trying to respond to a wide public consensus behind the peace process, which is based on conceding to Arab demands."

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Tonight, Wednesday, March 25, at 9:00 p.m.

Arutz 7 - English program, 97.3 FM radio (97.2 FM in Jerusalem)

This program was postponed because of stormy weather at sea, which prevented Arutz 7 from broadcasting last Wednesday evening.

Women in Green

P.O.B. 7352, Jerusalem.

ISRAEL'S BATTLE WITH THE WORLD

Moshe Raviv

Israel's former Ambassador in Britain speaks about his 40 years as a diplomat in an interview with

Amotz Asa-El, Associate Editor of the Jerusalem Post

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, at 7.30 p.m.

Center for Social Concern, YAKAR, 10 Rehov Halamed Heh, Old Katamon, Jerusalem. Tel. 561-2310

Donation: NIS 10; students/pensioners NIS 5.

NEWS
in brief

Hendel petitions court against Oz Israel Prize

MK Zvi Hendel (NRP) has petitioned the High Court of Justice to order the education minister to withdraw the Israel Prize for Literature from Amos Oz. Hendel says that Oz is not worthy of the prize since he cast a slur on the settlers in an article written during the intifada.

Oz described the settlers at Sebastia as a "small sect, a closed and cruel messianic sect" in the article. He later said that he was referring to Meir Kahane and his followers, but Hendel said it had been an attempt to discredit all the settlers.

In his petition presented yesterday, Hendel cited the precedent of last year, when the court ruled that the Israel Prize committee should review its decision to grant the prize to journalist Shmuel Schnitzer, who allegedly had cast aspersions on the Ethiopian community in an article.

Education Minister Yizhak Levy said yesterday that he "felt ill at ease" over the Oz article, but that he would await the court ruling. *Batsheva Tsur and Itim*

Hanegbi seeks legal advice on Derech Tzleha

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has asked advocate Uri Wagman to advise him with regard to allegations concerning irregularities when he headed the non-profit association Derech Tzleha, Army Radio reported yesterday. Police are due to begin investigating Hanegbi next week over the allegations that he used his position as head of the organization to receive funds and a car. Wagman represented Hanegbi during the Bar-On Affair. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Airlines concerned about '2000 bug'

American Airlines and KLM have already informed the Airports Authority that they will not fly to any destination, including Israel, on the night of December 31, 1999 in order to avoid any possible computer bug with the changeover to the new millennium.

David Oren, head of information and computerization at the authority, told the Knesset Science Committee's subcommittee on the "2000 Bug" that the only problem it has about software relates to the air control system. "We are due to get updates from the manufacturers in the US about this," he said. "In all other systems we ran simulations and found no problems we couldn't solve. By August 1998, we will finish checking our readiness for the year 2000." *Judy Siegel*



Helping the Jahalin

Members of Defense of Children International play with a Beduin boy yesterday outside Ma'aleh Adumim. Earlier, They handed out clothing to children of the Jahalin tribe to help compensate for the devastation of their encampment by last week's sand and rain storms. The 40-member organization, headed by an Israeli, Dr. Philip Veerman, has UN observer status.

(Nitzan Shorer)

Itzik slams soft treatment of hackers

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Knesset, which in 1995 passed a law setting a prison sentence for computer crimes, did not file a police complaint when its own Internet site was "hacked into" and changed a few weeks ago. Knesset Science and Technology Committee chairman MK Dalia Itzik, who learned this yesterday at a session on break-ins to computer systems via the Internet, said it illustrated the mistaken and forgiving view of Israeli society towards hackers.

The Knesset Internet department consulted with the legal adviser as to whether a complaint should be filed over the recent break-in – in which the hacker identified Ezer Weizman as "the best president Israel ever had," but he ruled against it.

Breaking into computer systems just for "fun" or for the "challenge" of it or to vandalize Web sites or profit from this is a crime just like breaking into a bank, said Itzik, whose opinion was echoed by many participants in the session. The meeting was observed by a few dozen teenagers, including computer expert Barak Raz, 19, who was invited to present his proposal for fighting computer crimes.

Raz, a Civil Guard volunteer about to join the army, urged the establishment of a "civil guard against computer crimes" comprised of volunteers who pass security clearance and monitor hackers' activities. These could include computer engineers, software technicians, systems operators and young computer "freaks" who know what they're doing. Such a patrol would deter many hackers, as if caught, they could be prosecuted under the Computer Law, he said; the volunteers could also do intelligence work.

Israel Police investigations chief Cmdr. Yossi Sitbon and the computer crimes investigation department head Ch.-Supt. Meir Zohar, who said they would look into this possibility, reported that only 35 official complaints regarding computer crimes had been filed during the last two years.

Tannenbaum had been due to appear before the committee, but Sitbon said that since the teenager was currently under investigation and completely isolated at home, the police decided it would "not be proper" for him to go to the Knesset. Others in the audience suggested that having Tannenbaum there would give him the spotlight and glamorize his crime, as it would if a wife beater were invited to the Knesset to discuss the problem of family violence.

The Israel Police has in recent years trained dozens of computer experts and purchased special equipment to try to deal with this new type of white-collar crime. Nevertheless, not a single Israeli hacker or other computer criminal has been put into jail or punished since the law took effect.

Knesset goes into recess today

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset packs up today for the spring recess and is scheduled to return on May 4. The winter sitting, which started October 27, has been action-packed, Speaker Dan Tichon said yesterday. It was marked by the longest debate in Knesset history, the two-week discussions on the budget and economic arrangements bill.

There was drama, including the presidential elections earlier this month; pathos, at the death of education minister and National Religious Party leader Zevulun Hammer and the memorial service for Yitzhak Rabin; nostalgia in the form of a special Tu Bishvat session addressed by former MKs; and the farewell to veteran Labor MK Moshe Shahal.

Despite the public impression of parliamentary laziness, Tichon said attendance by MKs was up and the House remained open and active even on the two days of snow.

Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) had a 100 percent attendance record. The MKs who participated in the most votes were Ruby Rivlin (Likud), Benny Elon (Moledet), Nissim Dahan (Shas), Shevah Weiss (Labor), and Tamar Gozansky (Hadash).

The five MKs least seen in the House were former and current Labor leaders Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak, Aryeh Deri (Shas) (only 24 percent attendance), and Migdal Ha'emek Mayor Shaul Amor and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (both Likud.)

Tichon noted that Gozansky was also the "champion speaker," addressing the plenum more than any other MK.

Based on the statistics and personal impression, Tichon decided Rivlin, Elon, Dahan, and Gozansky were the "outstanding parliamentarians," this sitting.

Avraham Poraz (Shinui) has filed the greatest number of private members bills so far in the 14th Knesset.

The two new committees – Public Complaints and Science and Technology – have also taken root and generated public and media interest.

There has been a drop in the number of parliamentary questions routinely asked of ministers, but the "Question Time," introduced this sitting based on the British model has proved popular, Tichon said.

Free vote for MKs on amnesty

AT THE KNESSET
By LIAT COLLINS

Coalition members will be given freedom to vote as they wish on the bills on general amnesty scheduled to come up today for a preliminary reading. The bills have been filed by Likud MKs Ze'ev Boim, Gideon Ezra and Haim Dayan.

Coalition whip Meir Sheetrit said since the government has not taken an official stand, its MKs can vote according to conscience. Sheetrit said he personally opposes granting a general amnesty for the jubilee and will vote against the bills.

The National Religious Party has announced that its MKs will vote against a general amnesty.

Two-day Independence day

The opposition is trying to block plans for a two-day Independence Day for the nation's 50th anniversary. MKs yesterday prevented the Knesset House Committee from endorsing the measure, immediately after it was submitted by the government, which would have enabled it to come up for all three readings before the Knesset recesses. Opposition MKs are also threatening to filibuster when the bill comes up for debate.

MK Haggai Merom (Labor) said the stand is to protest the way the government has not invited the opposition to fully participate in official state events. "If half the country is not included, there will not be a two-day Independence Day," he said.

The bill is expected to pass despite these threats, because of the coalition majority.

Laying out education plans

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy outlined his plans for the nations schools before the Knesset Education Committee yesterday.

"My main aim is equality in education," he said. "For this reason I will give preference to deprived sectors to make them equal."

He said he is disappointed by the high school teachers association although he had supported their struggle and called on them again to resume full work.

"Their just demands to be compensated for extracurricular activities must be discussed in wage agreements," he said.

Levy said he would not support budget cuts in education but would study the budget to see where there is duplication and try to free funds for places where they are most needed such as for lowering the dropout rate, raising the percentage of students who matriculate and special education.

Exploiting foreign workers

At a meeting yesterday of the Knesset Committee on Foreign Workers, Hanna Zohar of a workers' rights group called *Kav Le'Oved* presented figures which painted a depressing picture of exploitation. Zohar discussed the wages of Romanian worker Samion Sando. His gross salary through the "Perfect" personnel agency was NIS 6,039 a month, but after a series of deductions for various fees, ended up with only NIS 1,502.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Suissa said his ministry is in contact with the attorney general's office with the aim of doubling the fine for employers of illegal workers to NIS 100,000.

AIDS prostitute

The oldest AIDS-carrying prostitute is giving up the world's oldest profession at age 75 years to move into an old age home in Tiberias. The woman worked without taking protective measures, in Tel Aviv's Rehov Allenby area. Following the intervention of the Knesset Public Complaints Committee, chaired by Rafi Elul (Labor), the Health Ministry has promised to house her and treat her in the senior citizens home. Her story was revealed at a committee meeting yesterday about HIV-positive prostitutes.

There is apparently a lack of current data about how many prostitutes are AIDS carriers. The most recent survey was taken in 1991 and it found that eight out of 200 prostitutes (including males), were HIV-positive.

Ethiopian olim in West Bank

Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein yesterday praised the absorption efforts of settlements across the Green Line which have taken in Ethiopian immigrants.

He said that only 120 families have been moved to places like Ofra and Kedumim out of approximately 1,500 families who are meant to move there.

Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt and MK Adisu Masala said the immigrants are sent to the West Bank communities against their will. Masala said he would act to try to have them housed inside the Green Line.

Visit to Syria

MK Azmi Bashara has refused to be questioned by the police about his visit to Syria in December. Bashara traveled without the permission of the Interior Ministry required for journeys to "enemy states." The police have asked Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon about questioning Bashara but he said he will not be questioned of his own free will and that the police would have to ask that his parliamentary immunity be lifted.

"My trip to Syria was exactly the type of political activity for which parliamentary immunity exists," Bashara said. "The investigation seems to be a political one aimed at deterring me and others from these steps. I don't know why the government is afraid of my visit to Syria."

Goldstein memorial

The Knesset Interior Committee yesterday decided to forward for second and third reading the bill by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) banning the building of monuments to terrorists. The bill was motivated by the memorial site at Baruch Goldstein's grave but also applies to Arab terrorists.

It was agreed in the committee that although Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba cannot be moved because it is halachically not permitted to exhume the body for this, all the trappings of a memorial site there should be removed.

Where to eat in Israel

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100's OF BRIGHT GIFT IDEAS

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Vatican to continue Shoah research

WJC official criticizes Church for not accepting more blame

By LISA PALMIERI-BILLIG

ROME – Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, and Dr. Gerhart Riegner, honorary vice president of the World Jewish Congress, opened the Vatican meeting of the International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee on Monday by placing the most controversial current issues on the table. These are: the Vatican's new document, "We Remember: Reflections on the Shoah;" Pius XII; and the opening of the Vatican's World War II archives.

"We have taken note with great emotion of the act of repentance which you have expressed in this historic document," Riegner said.

However, he added, there are also "serious disappointments" as the document "avoids notably taking a position on the relationship between the teaching of contempt and the political and cultural climate that made the Shoah possible." Exempting "the church itself from any blame" by putting the respdnsibility on "individual Christians or 'the Christian world' ... is not acceptable," Riegner said.

After the document's virtues and failings were discussed by the 40 ILC delegates, Cassidy accepted Riegner's proposal to establish a joint bilateral working group to further research the Holocaust period of church history.

Cassidy attributed part of the controversy over the document to a theological misunderstanding. In Catholic theology, "the church itself" is the pure and holy bride of Christ. It cannot be accused of sinning, while "individual Christians" can include "even high authorities, even popes," he explained.

"Not everyone in our church has fully absorbed that new spirit of mutual understanding, but for every failure," he said, "there are thousands of initiatives ... a desire for reconciliation ... growing understanding on the part of the Catholic Church for Jewish concerns."

Cassidy also asked whether "our Jewish friends ... are making the same kind of effort to understand the Catholic Church and its position on matters like abortion or responsibility for the Shoah."

A paper by Rabbi Leon Klenicki, the Anti-Defamation League's interfaith director, on the Vatican's Holocaust document echoed the concerns expressed by many members of the Jewish delegation.

In the paper, Klenicki recalls that "it was in the heart of Christian civilization that the Crusaders in the First Millennium started killing entire Jewish communities on the way to Jerusalem ... the imposition of yellow badges and special hats by Paul IV in 1555 and the compulsory living in ghettos are reminders ... [as are] the concentration of the Jewish population in the ghettos of Warsaw, Lodz and other cities in Poland, or Drancy in France....

"Indeed, the fact that the Shoah took place in Europe, the heart of Christianity, requires a reckoning of the soul!"



Goodies for the IDF

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Brig.-Gen. (res.) Rami Dotan (right background), chairman of the Soldiers' Welfare Association, purchase the first of 15,000 food packages being donated by soldiers serving in the North, at a Supershuk Greenberg counter in Jerusalem yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Germany issues arrest warrant for Smyrek

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A court in Hannover, Germany has issued an arrest warrant for Stefan Josef Smyrek, a tourist arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport in November on suspicion of being sent by Hizbullah to plan or carry out a suicide attack.

Smyrek's lawyer, Dan Assan, said in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday that the public prosecutor in Hannover also announced plans two days ago to prepare a request to have Smyrek extradited.

The statement from Hannover Magistrate's Court that a warrant was issued for Smyrek's arrest on March 19 accusing him of intending to carry out a terrorist attack here. It said that the public prosecutor in Hannover intends to ask the German authorities to compile an extradition request.

Smyrek, 26, from Braunschweig, was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport on November 28, after having arrived from Amsterdam.

He was indicted on December 25 on charges of conspiring with an enemy to carry out an attack, attempting to harm security, and membership in a terrorist group.

A three-judge panel in the Tel Aviv court, headed by Judge Amnon Strashnov, granted a request by Assan to delay the start of the trial until the first week in May, to give German authorities sufficient time to file an extradition request and for Israel to respond.

Tel Aviv Prosecutor Dvorah Chen objected to the delay arguing that the request is based on a press release and that extradition is a lengthy process.

It was also the third time that the trial has been postponed.

Assan, a member of various Israel-German organizations, said he thinks extraditing Smyrek would be in the best interests of both nations.

Comptroller finds irregularities with IEC

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Israel Electric Corporation undertook in 1992 to reorganize its equipment department but failed to do so by mid-1997, the State Comptroller said.

The report on IEC activities found irregularities with the department, with regard to severance pay to senior workers and the hiring of an advisor on contract.

The corporation continued to buy equipment at unnecessarily high prices from veteran suppliers because it did not put out tenders as often as required by law. Meanwhile, prices were dropping and considerable sums could have been saved, the report says.

The IEC also did not bother to try to lower prices quoted by contractors after giving them more work, the report says. There were big differences in the sums paid for similar work in different parts of the country, it adds.

Moreover, the IEC gave severance pay to eight senior workers who retired before 65, going beyond what was permitted. In five cases, the payments were attributed to a need for reorganization, although no reorganization took place, the report adds.

Two workers who left voluntarily before retirement age also received enlarged severance payments. Three employees obtained special grants for which no reason was stated.

The IEC also appointed a member of the Labor Party's central committee as an advisor in 1994 at a salary of NIS 12,500, which was raised to NIS 14,700 three months later, with the addition of a car and other fringe benefits, the report says. Her job was defined as maintaining contacts with ministers, MKs and government authorities. The board chairperson said there was no reason to disqualify her because of her party affiliations. But the comptroller found that the position, which was new, should have been approved before someone was hired.

Bill would punish doctors who transplant trafficked organs

By JUDY SIEGEL

A bill that would allow the government to prosecute physicians who perform transplants that involve organs sold for a profit was approved yesterday by the Ministerial Committee on Legislation, paving the way for its first reading in the Knesset.

The Health Ministry has not found a way to prevent Israeli surgeons from doing this abroad. Prof. Zaki Shapira of the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus has been suspected of carrying out such operations abroad but cannot be charged under the law.

The bill regulates the activities of the Israel Transplant Coordination Center and determines which live donors may give organs. Only relatives may give one of their kidneys or the lobe of a liver, except for rare cases in which non-related donors want to give an organ and are not paid to do so. This regulation has been in effect unofficially for a year, during which time four friends of recipients donated an organ.

Ministry Director-General Gaby Barabash said it would be used in rare cases, such as when the friend was together with the would-be recipient in the army and wanted to donate an organ to keep him alive. The ministry, he said, would perform rigorous checks to ensure that altruism was indeed involved, and that payments would not be handed over "under the table."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said yesterday that he will struggle to prevent the sale of organs for transplant.

NEWS

in brief

Man held for attempting to kill wife

A resident of Hayogev, a moshav in the Jezreel Valley, is being held by police on suspicion that he attempted to kill his wife yesterday morning.

The suspect allegedly fired his pistol at his wife, who managed to flee to a neighbor's house unharmed. The neighbor called police, and the husband fled, but was picked up later. The couple has apparently been having problems for some time. *Itim*

12 arrested in major drug bust

Police arrested 12 suspected drug dealers and confiscated 30 grams of Heroin during an operation in Jaffa early yesterday morning. Over 70 policemen and border policemen participated in the operation, which was planned after an undercover police agent spent three-and-a-half months working in Jaffa. During that period, he helped police confiscate 110 grams of heroin, ecstasy and other drugs. *Itim*

Drug dealer refused lighter sentence

The Supreme Court yesterday overturned an appeal by Ya'acov Korkin for a more lenient sentence in connection with a drug case. Korkin was sentenced to 20 years for "importing" more than 950 kilograms of cocaine from Columbia to Europe and to three years for using a forged passport. Korkin said he had been convicted on the basis of evidence against him from his former partner, who turned state-witness. *Itim*

Kibbutz leaders to meet US Jewish heads

Leaders of the three kibbutz movements, including Hakibbutz Hadati, are to leave today for a 10-day tour of the US to meet with leaders of the Conservative and Reform movements. A spokesman said that tour was worked out following a series of meetings held by the three movements on pluralism and freedom of choice, with the understanding that the status quo on religion and state is no longer applicable and that new understandings had to be reached without legal compulsion. The purpose of the tour is to examine the possibility of setting up a joint body by the Conservative, Reform, and Orthodox movements which would function here to promote Jewish identity and education and aliya. *Haim Shapiro*

US Secretary for Health to visit in November

US Secretary for Health and Human Services Donna Shalala will visit in November to participate in a seminar on women's health in Jerusalem. She accepted the invitation from Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who met with her last week at the home of Ambassador to the US Eliahu Ben-Elissar. Shalala, who was here early in the first Clinton administration, will head a delegation that will include senators and congressmen. *Judy Siegel*

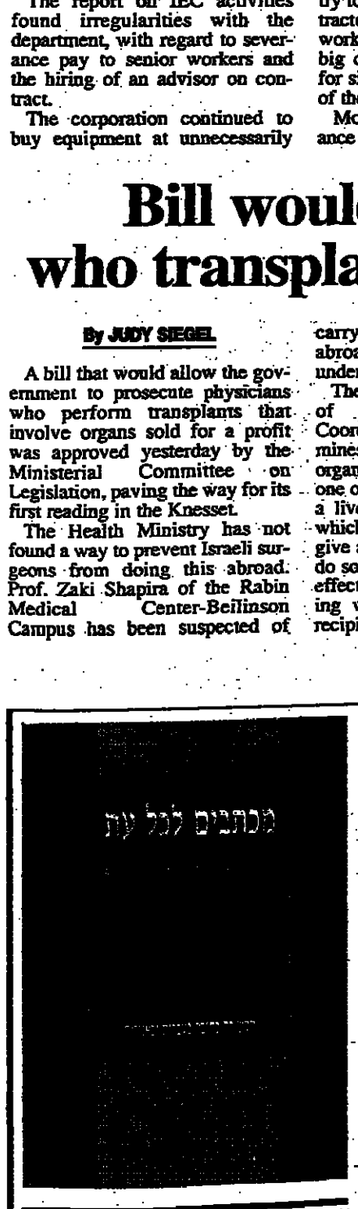
Regional medical conference closes

The first regional conference on medical sciences of the Hebrew University and UNESCO, dedicated to a discussion of oxygen free radicals, concludes after three days today in Jerusalem and will move tomorrow to Amman for another two days.

Some 200 experts from Israel, the US, Japan, Germany, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority came here for deliberations on the charged particles, which are involved in the development of many diseases, from cancer and atherosclerosis to cataracts and diabetes. *Judy Siegel*

Sacha Elterman thanks Israelis for sympathy

Sacha Elterman, the 16-year-old Australian who is finally recovering in her Sydney home after being severely injured in last summer's Maccabiah bridge collapse, has sent a letter to Postal Authority director-general Moshe Tery expressing her gratitude to Israelis for their support. During a recent visit to Australia, Tery sent her a warm letter, along with an album of Israeli stamps and the book *Artists Send Peace*. Elterman, who underwent many brain operations and struggled against death, wrote: "The kindness and generosity of the people of Israel throughout my ordeal has been overwhelming" and said she would "treasure [the gifts] always." *Judy Siegel*



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Good Ship Lollipop

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

The travel writer Paul Theroux took the idea that Tarzan was an expatriate and turned it into the title of a book.

"The realization that he is white in a black country, and respected for it, is the turning point in the expatriate's career. He can either forget it, or capitalize on it. Most choose the latter," he wrote.

Whether being white in Africa is still a basis for respect is dubious in the extreme. While "choosing to capitalize on it" may have produced the occasional Somerset Maugham, Lawrence Durrell or Paul Gauguin, more often it created the exploitation, white narcissism and brutality that reached its nadir in apartheid.

It seems Theroux's thesis might still work, if Tarzan is president of the United States and Jane is Hillary. The unprecedented scenes in Ghana on the first leg of the African tour could be explained only by the magical quality the Clintons seemed to sweep in to a continent that truly understands magic.

The Ghanaians were little interested in what Bill Clinton had to say. They wanted to see him, and if possible touch him.

Wheels a rollin'

They even got a flash of the famous but rarely seen Clinton temper when he snarled at them to "back off, get back," as he saw people in danger of being crushed. This is foreign policy by bandwagon. The bandwagon may stall in the grim and muddy realities of Rwanda, but only briefly, for the Clintons are coming to places starved of modern celebrity, but neither ignorant of it, nor immune to it.

The Clintons and their 800-person entourage will sweep through six African states like some latter-day caravan of the Queen of Sheba on an odyssey to search for King Solomon's mines. There were no gold mines then, there may be few economic mines now.

Because of the Cold War, the media shorthand for dividing up the world became East and West. From Africa, the true division is North and South. In East and West, the twain have met at last, and are beginning to merge into some free-market uniformity. North and South co-exist in mutual incomprehension. The North remains mystified by the backwardness and isolation of Africans, Africa remains mystified by the glitter and stupidity of the North.

Button up girls

Yet Africa has had contacts with the North on a fairly regular, if mostly brutal basis, for 600 years. The roots of the misunderstanding between the North and Africa are so deep there is little hope of dissecting them. The worst sin has been the Northerners' assumption that simplicity or difference means backwardness.

In their childhoods as nations, Africans were systematically abused first by the slave traders, then by the silly Victorians' impulse to save and civilize them, while exploiting them.

The ideas live on in new mutations. Northerners were first shocked by the Africans' lack of "morality" because of their polygamy. Never mind that African social order and customs had been evolving along different paths than those in Europe for untold millennia. Just cover those lascivious female bosoms and do things the decent Christian way!

African women had always suckled their young for long periods – up to age three was common. During that period, they refrained from sex to maintain lactation, and the man turned his attention to other wives. While each man might father many children, each woman produced few, and raised them healthy with unhurried ease.

First missionaries, then Northern aid programs, halted polygamy. One wife took on the burdens of the many, disrupting the village social norms that were there for a reason. The number of children per mother went up, their nutrition went down and infant mortality soared. The interfering busybodies from the North thus raised the birth rate of Africans, but ensured that more of the children died.

Band-Aid

Aha! What they need is some aid programs – expensive, imported birth-control programs to cut the birth rate, and expensive, imported medicines to cut infant mortality. With the ever increasing flow of aid "programs" and handouts came corruption and dependency.

The most visible and tragic sign of European abuse is the arbitrary borders the foreigners drew up and left behind. These cut across natural geographic lines used by Africans, and even worse, they split coherent ethnic groups into different "nationalities."

Rwanda is just the worst modern example of the results.

Clinton's visit may bring a dash of celebrity magic to Africa, but it may bring forlorn hopes too. Africans are crying out for more aid for basic infrastructure and services. The US is in an anti-aid mood.

It is pro-investment, but those steel-eyed businessmen in Clinton's caravan will be peering at Africa's resume and seeing low skills, poor education, non-existent health services, bad roads, no railways, bad water, bad transportation, no financial markets and an ocean of corruption. In Asia, or Eastern Europe, there's just corruption, without all the rest.

In 1975, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization heralded a "new era for Africa" with this announcement: "The FAO is featuring Shirley Temple-Black, the new US ambassador to Ghana, as Ceres, the Roman god of fertility, on a medal specially struck for the occasion."

Sorry Bill, it's a great tour, nice bandwagon, nice Band-Aids. But 23 years later, you're all still stuck on Shirley's Good Ship Lollipop, going nowhere.

Out of Africa

Bill Clinton's odyssey into the black continent fulfills a boyhood dream

By NICHOLAS KOTCH



Clinton set the tone of his 12-day trip in a speech before an estimated 250,000 people packed into Ghana's Independence Square in the capital Accra – and came close to being overwhelmed by an overenthusiastic crowd. (AP)

KAMPALA - President Bill Clinton arrived in Uganda on Tuesday on the second leg of an African tour which is the most extensive by a serving US president on the continent and the fulfillment of a boyhood dream.

"I've always wanted to go (to Africa) ever since I was a boy," Clinton told reporters accompanying him on his six-nation tour.

Clinton, who flew in from Ghana, will hold talks on Tuesday with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, a former revolutionary and guerrilla leader who is credited with transforming Uganda since he took power in 1986.

A broken economy is breathing steadily again, and the nightmare years of the 1970s, when former dictator Idi Amin was a byword for cruel and capricious leadership, are gone if not forgotten.

Clinton set the tone of his 12-day trip in a speech before an estimated 250,000 people packed into Ghana's Independence Square in the capital Accra — and came close to being overwhelmed by an overenthusiastic crowd.

He paid tribute to what he called the "new Africa" and preached the benefits of democracy, education, trade, peace and justice.

"Africans are being stirred by new hopes for democracy and peace and prosperity," he said, as he struggled with the unfamiliar tropical heat and humidity.

"We want to work with Africans to nurture democracy," he added. "Now, nations and individuals finally are free to seek a newer world where democracy and peace and prosperity are not slogans, but the essence of a new Africa."

Clinton tempered his optimism about the spread of democracy in Africa with a reference to "military dictatorship in Nigeria" and cautioned that progress would be hard to achieve as long as violence continued in the continent.

Clinton and his wife, Hillary, spent just over 10 hours in Ghana before leaving for Uganda. They will also visit Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana and the former French colony of Senegal.

The trip offered Clinton a welcome break from the political hothouse that is Washington and its simmering sex scandal.

Clinton denies charges that he had a sexual affair with a former White House intern and urged her to lie about it under oath.

Ghana's President Jerry Rawlings, who at 50 has made the transition from a radical firebrand shunned by Washington to an elected president and economic reformer, welcomed the Clintons to Africa.

The crowd roared its approval as Rawlings wrapped a colorful ceremonial "kente" cloth around Clinton's shoulders.

Clinton walked down from the podium to greet the people.

The crowd, clamoring to shake his hand, surged forward, nearly knocking over metal barriers, and Clinton, with a look of consternation on his face, waved his arm and cried: "Back up."

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said later Clinton had appealed for restraint "because he saw people in the front that were getting squeezed and he was trying to get people to back off a bit."

Ghana, gripped by its worst energy crisis since independence from Britain in 1957, set a lot of store by Clinton's visit — during which the US agreed to underwrite a $67 million deal for a floating power station.

Clinton said he hoped Americans would change their view of Africa as a continent prone to disease, famine and violence. "It is time for Americans to put a new Africa on our map," he added. (Reuters)

This stop Uganda

While saluting its economic recovery, Clinton is pushing for political pluralism in Kampala

By RANDALL MIKKELSEN

KAMPALA – US President Bill Clinton arrived in Uganda on Tuesday for a two-day visit likely to present him with the most sensitive diplomatic challenges of his sojourn in Africa.

Over the next two days, Clinton is expected to gently nudge President Yoweri Museveni towards opening up the country's "no-party" political system while saluting Uganda's economic recovery.

"The real tricky part is the Uganda-Rwanda piece," Terrence Lyons, an Africa expert with the Brookings Institution, told reporters at a White House briefing this month.

Today Clinton is expected to make a round trip by air to neighboring Rwanda to pay his respects to the estimated 800,000 victims of the ethnic genocide there in 1994.

He will not leave Kigali airport, apparently for security reasons, so Rwanda's government has hastily constructed a monument there to the genocide.

Later that day, Clinton and Museveni will host a summit of regional leaders in Entebbe, near the Ugandan capital, which is expected to end with a declaration of principles on governance issues.

Clinton set the tone of his 12-day trip on Monday in a speech before an estimated 250,000 people in Ghana's capital Accra.

He paid tribute to what he called the "new Africa" and preached the benefits of democracy, education, trade, peace and justice.

While flying from Ghana to Uganda, Clinton spoke by telephone for about 30 minutes with Liberian President Charles Taylor, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Clinton also may telephone other African leaders whose countries he will bypass this trip, McCurry said.

Clinton was to hold a formal meeting later on Tuesday with Museveni of Uganda.

Clinton's visit also aims to highlight Uganda's economic growth, among the most robust in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been fuelled by privatization and a more stable exchange rate.

At a speech in a primary school on Tuesday in the village of Mukono outside Kampala, Clinton is to announce a cooperative program designed to aid education, McCurry said.

He will also visit the village of Wanyange, where he will highlight small-scale credit programs that have benefited Ugandan women.

Clinton will also take part in the summit meeting, which will include two leaders whose relations with the US have been difficult — Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire.

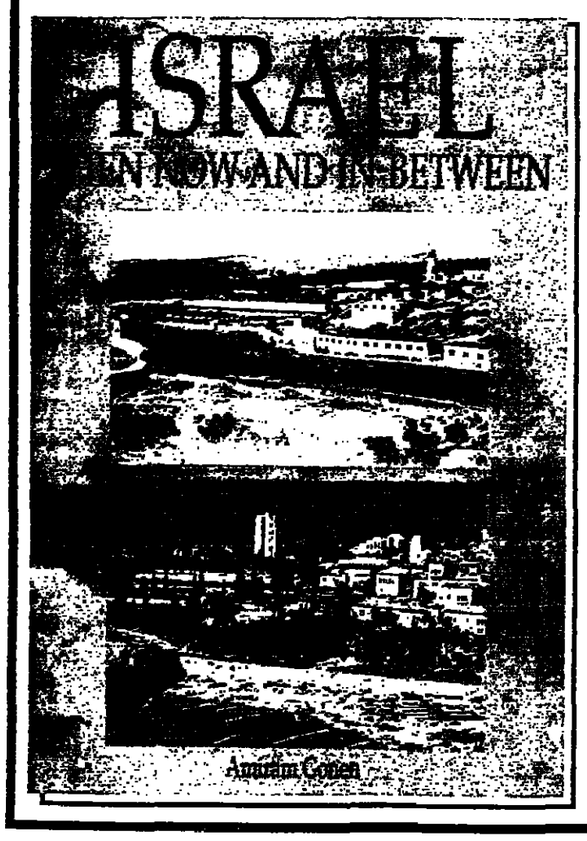
The United States has been concerned about the conduct of recent elections in Kenya and called for greater political openness, which has strained relations with Moi.

Washington has also been eager for Kabila to implement democratic institutions in the former Zaire since he ousted dictator Mobutu Sese Seko last year.

Among other participants at the summit will be the leaders of Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia. (Reuters)

ISRAEL - THEN, NOW AND IN-BETWEEN

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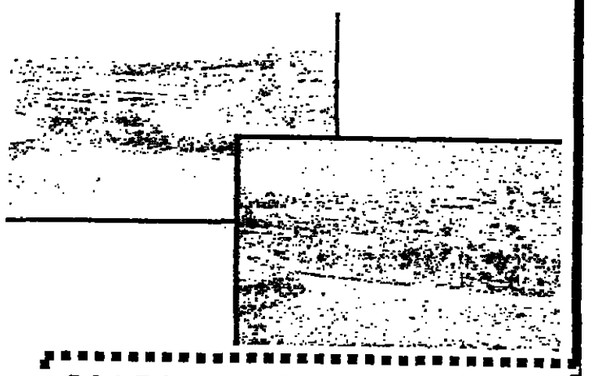


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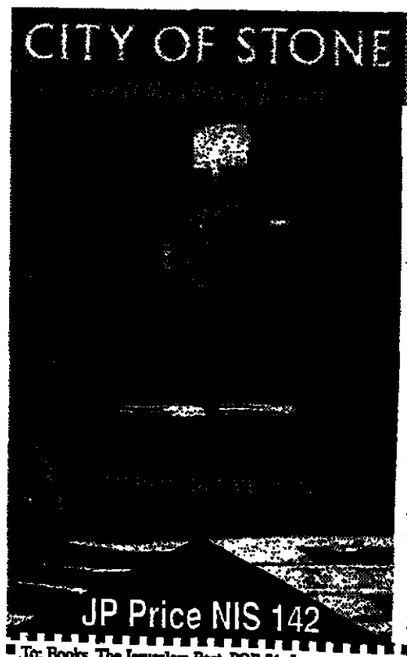


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Turbulent French vote spells defeat for Le Pen

Far-right loses kingmaker's leverage after center-right forfeits Paris region

By BERNARD EDINGER

PARIS (Reuters) - Far-rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen, for several days the kingmaker of French politics, was thwarted yesterday when the center-right preferred to lose control of the key Paris region rather than deal with him.

Le Pen had offered to back center-right parties in the race for the chairmanship of the Ile-de-France region, which includes the capital, if they backed his bid to become chairman of the Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur region.

The chairmanship of Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur would have given him unprecedented power and created an earthquake in French politics.

Le Pen's anti-foreigner National Front threw the mainstream Right into crisis last week when five conservatives broke a taboo and tacitly accepted its help to win election as council chairmen in their regions.

The Front was kingmaker in those regions because of its 15.5 percent nationwide share of the vote in regional elections on March 15.

But Le Pen's bid for open deals was too much for the leaders of the center-right. President Jacques Chirac weighed in against him on Monday, publicly describing the Front as racist, xenophobic and a danger for democracy.

Conservatives who might have otherwise backed Le Pen prevented his election in Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, where Socialist Michel Vauzelle was elected chairman of the region, which includes the Riviera.

In the Paris vote early yesterday, conservative Dominique Versini preferred to stand down after two rounds, handing victory to Socialist Jean-Paul Huchon, than risk election with the support of the Front.

Huchon got the votes of 87 councillors elected on March 15 against 36 for National Front candidate Jean-Yves Le Gallou and three for ultra-leftist Arlette Laguiller.

The councillors from Versini's neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) and the allied Union for French Democracy (UDF) did not vote.

It was the first time the Left had taken control of the the Ile-de-France region.

An outraged Le Pen denounced Chirac, saying the president was "an infamous liar" who together with his allies "were probably the most immoral leaders France has ever known."

He said French conservatives were cowed by a left-wing political correctness that "bends all politicians to its will as if they were hot spaghetti."

Clearly impressed by the changing tide, two of the five new conservative regional chairmen elected with National Front help resigned.

Another, former defense minister Charles Millon, the most influential politician to initially accept Le Pen's backing, penned a newspaper article on Monday denouncing him as being like a 1920s fascist.

Le Pen demanded Millon's resignation, saying he had been cheated.

"I feel we are losing sight of things, I feel that passion has taken over from reason, I feel we risk harming France, its values and its image," Chirac said in his television address.

"The time has come to react," and it was time to defend French "liberty, equality and fraternity," he said.

Chirac also accused Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's left-wing coalition of fanning the Front debate to discredit the right-wing Jospin unexpectedly beat in last year's general election.

"It is not healthy to pour oil on the fire," he said, reminding the Left that they had introduced the proportional representation system in the 1980s that enabled the Front to play such a key role in the regional elections this month.

Condemning RPR and UDF councillors who argued it was better to align with the Front than let regions fall to a coalition of Socialists, Communists and Greens, Chirac said: "I can only disapprove of those who preferred political games to the voice of their conscience."

Chirac said he would consult all mainstream parties to work out proposals to change French electoral laws, clearly seeking new ways to keep the National Front out of power.

Yeltsin: Russia's foreign, defense chiefs to stay

Enigmatic reshuffle

BACKGROUND

By MARTIN NESIRKY

MOSCOW (Reuters) – President Boris Yeltsin made it clear yesterday that he wants to keep his defense and foreign ministers, but otherwise seemed to be giving Acting Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko a free hand to select a new cabinet.

Yeltsin, asserting his authority after a week of illness, surprised Russia and the international community on Monday by ditching Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister and sacking the entire government. He was back in the Kremlin yesterday.

Russian newspapers, which these days reflect the views of their tycoon owners, predictably offered wildly different reasons for Yeltsin's decision to dump Chernomyrdin's team.

Yeltsin himself said the aim was to boost flagging reforms and sought to reassure markets and governments that foreign and economic policy would not change.

Yesterday, Yeltsin was back at work and apparently still on form, meeting his administration team for about an hour.

Russian news agencies quoted Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky as saying Yeltsin had praised Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev and Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

"This can be viewed as the president's wish that Primakov and Sergeyev remain their posts," the Itar-Tass news agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

Agencies said Kiriyenko, a 35-year-old regional technocrat who entered government as a deputy energy minister just a year ago, had a number of meetings planned with parliamentary and faction leaders at the State Duma lower house.

The RIA news agency said Kiriyenko had moved into the office vacated by reformer Anatoly Chubais. Kiriyenko was named a first deputy prime minister in place of Chubais.

Kiriyenko, balding and bespectacled, said on Monday in a radio interview that Yeltsin had given him a free hand to assemble candidates for a new government, but the president would take the final decision.

Other ministers in addition to Primakov and Sergeyev are expected to keep their places in a new team, yet to be named, which Yeltsin said must act more decisively to revive Russia's reforms and make them more tangible for ordinary people.

The fate of the government's other star reformer, first deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov, remains unclear.



Acting Russian Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko (center right) chairs an interim-government session in Moscow yesterday. The 35-year-old former energy minister said it would take him a week to form a new cabinet. (AP)

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Russian newspapers yesterday offered wildly different versions of why President Boris Yeltsin fired his entire cabinet.

The suggested reasons ranged from manipulation of the Kremlin leader by financial tycoons to a simple bad mood. However, the newspapers mostly agreed that a complex knot of reasons was behind the dramatic decision.

"In his favorite manner, Yeltsin burst the political situation in the country," said the liberal daily *Nezavisimaya*. "Yeltsin's illness last week... assuming prime ministerial powers and promoting Sergei Kiriyenko provoked talk that the Kremlin's head is being manipulated."

Most newspapers, including the Communist *Pravda*, liberal *Sevodnya*, and tabloid *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, suggested that Sunday's "timely" return from Switzerland of influential tycoon Boris Berezovsky was probably not just a coincidence.

Upon his return Berezovsky, who is seen by many analysts as a powerful behind-the-scenes player in the Kremlin political game, gave a long television interview in which he spoke of a need for "new faces in the government" and of the unpopularity of the present team.

"The next day Yeltsin seemed just a man fulfilling all that Boris Abramovich Berezovsky told him the other night," *Moskovsky Komsomolets* said.

Many newspapers, radio and television channels in Russia belong to and represent the interests of big financial magnates.

"[Berezovsky's return] is just one of the possible reasons, there are a number of versions and each of them does not rule out the rest," said *Sevodnya*.

One, which also appeared in most newspapers, is that Yeltsin sacked the cabinet to prevent the opposition gaining ground, particularly during an all-Russia day of protest on April 9.

"The main slogan of the day of action was due to be 'Sack the anti-people government!'" *Sevodnya* said. "But the president... preferred to interfere himself and sacked the anti-people government."

The other is that Yeltsin cleared the way for fired premier Viktor Chernomyrdin to get ready for the presidential election in the year 2000.

The influential daily *Kommersant*, however, said Chernomyrdin's political career has ended. His political power base, out of the premier's chair, is too small. *Kommersant* said Chernomyrdin's recent public appearances and actions were too ambitious for Yeltsin, and ultimately cost him the job.

Another version is that Yeltsin decided to show his authority ahead of a summit in Moscow with the leaders of France and Germany.

"Too much attention has been paid to the president's health recently," *Sevodnya* said. "So he decided to remind the world and Russia who is the master. And he is a strong, decisive, and unpredictable master."

UK government plays down Iraq anthrax scare

By JOHN MORRISON

LONDON (Reuters) – The government told Britons not to panic yesterday after it confirmed intelligence warnings of a possible Iraqi anthrax attack but stressed there was no imminent or specific threat towards Britain.

"It is right to take sensible measures. But it is unnecessary to be alarmist," Home Secretary Jack Straw told parliament.

Straw said a number of countries had received information about possible Iraqi threats to smuggle anthrax – a deadly poison which Baghdad is known to have produced.

"But our information is that there is no specific threat to the UK. There is no evidence to indicate that any attempt has actually been made to smuggle anthrax into this country. There is also no evidence that such an attempt at smuggling might be in prospect," he said.

Iraq yesterday denied it planned to send anthrax to Britain, with a spokesman dismissing the reports as "silly and baseless." A spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair said that "in an ideal world" the information would not have been made public.

"It's not the first time we have heard this sort of thing," he said.

The government confirmed late on Monday it had placed its ports on alert for Iraqi chemical weapons after intelligence sources warned of a plot to smuggle anthrax in duty-free bottles of perfume and alcohol.

News of the alert was broken by *The Sun* tabloid paper, which said one teaspoonful of anthrax could wipe out 100 million people.

The Sun said Saddam planned to target "hostile countries" including the United States and other NATO members as revenge for any military strikes.

The United States and Britain pulled back from threatened strikes against Baghdad in January after an agreement to grant UN arms inspectors unfettered access to sites in Iraq suspected of producing weapons of mass destruction like anthrax.

Straw reassured the House of Commons that Britain had the means to deal swiftly with the consequences of terrorism, including chemical and biological threats.

He revealed that Britain was currently hosting a European Union seminar of experts on chemical and biological terrorism.

The all-ports warning advised officials to be on alert for anything that could contain the anthrax virus.

"Iraq may launch chemical and biological attack using material disguised as harmless fluids. Could officers therefore be alert for any items which might contain harmful substances," the Home Office warning said.

"Attention should be given to containers of any size containing liquids with specific characteristics," it said.

While taking the threat seriously, British officials have always assumed that Saddam would not risk using chemical or biological weapons against the West for fear of massive retaliation.

Milosevic allows Albanian-language schools

By KURT SCHORK

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) – Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has tackled a major grievance of the Kosovo region's restive ethnic Albanians with an agreement that promises them state education in their own language.

The deal came just two days before a meeting of the six-power international contact group – the US, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, and Britain – in Bonn to decide whether or not to impose fresh sanctions against Belgrade.

Still, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Milosevic has failed to meet key demands by major powers on Kosovo and that pressure on him must be maintained.

"Belgrade is still ignoring the Contact Group's key demands. Serbian security police are digging in, not pulling out... we will need to maintain credible pressure on Belgrade to end repression and restore autonomy [in Kosovo]," Albright told a news conference.

The European Union, however, welcomed Monday's deal and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, said the challenge now is to translate the deal into "action and concrete results."

"The Union will study the arrangements which have been negotiated and remains willing to provide support to a fair agreement acceptable to both sides," Cook said in a statement.

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Britain's melting-pot challenge

By WILLIAM D. MONTALBANO

LONDON – The Empire came home to Britain on a cold June morning in 1948. Docking in London, the S.S. Empire Windrush delivered 500 passengers from Jamaica, black men in suits carrying British passports and hungry for waiting jobs. For the first time, large numbers of people who weren't white had arrived to live and work among the British at home.

Fast forward to 1998. The Royal Navy, for centuries the guarantor of an empire on which the sun never set, is conferring with friendly navies of Turkey and Pakistan: How do they adapt uniforms to permit use of Muslim head scarves by female officers?

In half a century, the face, taste, texture and self-perception of Britain have changed strikingly and irreversibly with the oft-troubled rise of a multiethnic society. Following blacks from the Caribbean came Africans, displaced Indians from East Africa and Asian immigrants from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Now Britain is taking a hard new look at its new-look society.

Government, public institutions, businesses and everyday people are trying, often belatedly, to catch up with breathtaking change.

Jarring incidents and dissenting voices provide a counterpoint to multiracial growth. But from Parliament to city streets, adapting to dazzling multiethnic reality has become a key priority for Britain.

The reasons are manifest: 50 years after Windrush, more than half a million blacks live in London. And across an officially Protestant country, there are mosques in every major city and as many Moslems, 1.3 million, as there are Methodists.

"The situation is clearly better than even five years ago. We are working hard to maintain that streak of goodwill within society," says Herman Ouseley, chairman of the government's Commission for Racial Equality. "We are on the right track, but momentum is important. There are still high levels of unemployment, racism, prejudice. Despite greater sensitivities, some people are not prepared to accept a multi-racial society."

Today, one Londoner in five is a member of an ethnic minority. Nationwide, minorities total about 3 million, or about 5.5 percent of the population.

On the surface, races seem to mix more easily in Britain than in the US, but there are still racist barriers, say activists such as Simon de Banya, a British-born son of African parents.

"In America, racism is overt. You know how to deal with it; you can be better prepared. Here it is very covert, but very institutionalized," says de Banya, who lived for several years in New York and who now heads the 1990 Trust, a black think tank. "The official line is that this is a multicultural country, but I think blacks are more tolerated than they are integrated."

Still, racism that might once have gone unchecked increasingly finds its way into courtrooms and onto front pages. This month, a new inquiry opened into the 1994 killing in London of black teenager Stephen Lawrence. Five white youths have been publicly accused but never tried. The Lawrence case, which police were shown to have investigated poorly, has become a symbol of racism – and of the need for redress.

If racism remains a fact of daily life, and poverty and unemployment shadow ethnic communities, new Britain is also home to economic success, social progress and degrees of integration that might surprise many Americans.

In London, particularly, black-white partnerships are common, and the number of children of mixed parentage is rising sharply, according to the racial equality commission. Responding to a national survey on ethnic minorities last year, 74% of British whites said they wouldn't mind if a close relative married a black; 70% had no objection to marriage with an Asian.

In half a century, Britain's face, taste, texture and self-perception have changed strikingly and irreversibly with the oft-troubled rise of a multiethnic society

In January, a blue-ribbon commission launched the biggest study of multiethnicity ever undertaken in Britain. Its goal: to formulate policies that can better adapt social and political institutions to the changing nature of the population.

Such long-term initiatives are accompanied by here-and-now calls for reforms. The Trades Union Congress, an umbrella group for Britain's unions, is formally demanding better pay, more jobs and quicker promotions for minority workers. It wants an end to the racial abuse that 29% of minority workers tell their unions they have suffered at work.

The British police and the armed forces – long seen by blacks as bastions of institutionalized racism – are vigorously recruiting minorities. The BBC has just concluded a major reform to better reflect minorities in everything from recruiting to programming. The civil service and the professions are changing as well: Asian students already make up 50% of the student body at some medical schools.

Recently, Moslem private schools won government funding *for the first time, putting them on* a par with Christian and Jewish schools. More than ever, ethnic food, music and fashion are part of British life. London clubs rock with bhangra, which, rhythm under rhythm, draws on classic Hindi and Punjabi music blended with hip-hop, reggae and techno.

Overall, Britain is 94.5% white, but it would be hard to find a village without its Indian and Chinese takeout restaurants, or a village school without the restaurant owners' children.

"When I came 30 years ago, the smell of our food – curry – discriminated against us: We couldn't rent flats," said Jatinder Verma, who runs an intercultural theater company. "Today, curry is the national diet.

Early Caribbean immigrants were blue-collar workers whose descendants are still vital to the running of London's subways and double-decker buses. Today, there is scarcely a neighborhood without a corner grocery shop run by an Asian family living upstairs.

Ethnic minorities contribute 12% of students on British university campuses, more than twice their proportion in the population.

Individually and collectively, minorities are leaving an indelible mark. Among Britain's best writers, *Salman Rushdie is of* Indian origin and V.S. Naipaul is of Indian descent but came from the West Indies.

Trevor McDonald, the nation's favorite TV newscaster, is a black man from Trinidad. Ruud Gullit, the people's favorite soccer manager, is a black man from Holland. London-born model Naomi Campbell's model mother hails from Jamaica. Nine members of the House of Commons boast Caribbean or African roots.

Economist-philosopher Amartya Sen, 64, born in Bangladesh, where his father and grandfather were professors at Dhaka University, was lured home from Harvard recently to head Trinity College in Cambridge, his alma mater and one of the nation's most distinguished centers of learning. Another British Asian, Swraj Paul, owner of a steel empire, is one of 300 minority millionaires in the country and one of Britain's 500 richest people.

One fruit of a society reinventing itself is a new-breed Brit who is emerging within it.

"I can be a fully paid-up member of Britain and still have deep ties to other countries," says Meera Syal, who writes for and performs in "Goodness Gracious Me!" – a prime-time TV satire by British Asians about British Asians. "I will never be just British, but a British-born Indian."

Says actor Colin Salmon, a black actor who plays the secret service chief of staff in the latest James Bond movie. "I'm a Cockney born in the East End of London, English, African, Caribbean. I celebrate my complexity. That's what we all have to do here."

The writer, who was the Los Angeles Times *London bureau chief, died March 19.*



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James Cameron holds up the Oscar he won for best director for 'Titanic.' The movie equaled the record set by 'Ben Hur' in 1959. (Reuters)

'Titanic' ties record, wins 11 Oscars

By PATRICK GOLDSTEIN

It was a night to remember for *Titanic*. The epic drama about two lovers aboard the ill-fated 1912 luxury liner continued its passage into film history by winning best picture at Monday night's 70th annual Academy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium.

The film, which recently supplanted *Star Wars* as the highest-grossing film in Hollywood history, earned 11 Oscars, tying 1959's *Ben Hur* as the most honored film in Academy history. *Titanic*'s Oscar haul included best picture, cinematography, film editing, sound, costume design and art direction, as well as a best director Oscar for James Cameron. Cameron has enjoyed box-office success with *Aliens*, the two *Terminator* movies and *True Lies*, but had never received a nomination for his work. Monday night, he also shared an Oscar for best editing, the first time a director has won in both categories.

The Oscar wins represented an emotional triumph for Cameron, whose name was repeated like a mantra in thank-you speeches over the course of the evening. His three-hour-plus film had been a subject of considerable second-guessing and controversy, especially when its $200 million budget appeared to have killed any chance of the film making its money back for 20th Century Fox and Paramount Pictures, the two studios that co-financed the picture.

The one area where *Titanic* hit an iceberg was in the acting categories. In what was clearly a popular victory, Jack Nicholson won best actor for his prickly comic performance in the James L. Brooks film, *As Good as It Gets*. This was the third Oscar for the eleven-time nominee, who previously won best actor for 1975's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and best supporting actor for Brooks' 1983 film, *Terms of Endearment*.

Nicholson's co-star, Helen Hunt, won best actress for her portrayal of a harried single mother who develops an emotional relationship with an eccentric writer, played by Nicholson.

Hunt, winner of two Emmys for her comic role in the TV series, *Mad About You*, won out over four British actresses, including Golden Globe winner Judi Dench, normally favorites with the Academy. "Good Will Hunting," which had been touted as a possible best picture dark horse, wasn't shut out entirely. Childhood friends Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, 27 and 25, won original screenplay for the emotional drama about a blue-collar math wizard's struggle to make peace with his own genius. Best supporting actor went to Robin Williams, as the therapist trying to help Damon.

Critics darling "L.A. Confidential" also picked up two statuettes. Director Curtis Hanson and Brian Helgeland won for best adapted screenplay. And Kim Basinger received supporting actress for her role in *L.A. Confidential*, playing a high-class call girl who resembled '40s femme fatale Veronica Lake. She beat out sentimental favorite Gloria Stuart, the 87-year-old actress who played Old Rose in *Titanic*.

The Full Monty, the evening's underdog contender, only won an Oscar for Anne Dudley's original musical or comedy score.

(Los Angeles Times)

The things they said

I'm the king of the world!
— *Titanic* filmmaker James Cameron, quoting a line from the movie after picking up his Oscar for best director

For my daughter, Josephine, who's five years old, watching at home: Honey, this is the thing I described to you. It's called an Oscar and it's really cool to get.
— Cameron

I can't act and I can't compose and I can't do visual effects. I guess that's why I'm producing.
— *Titanic* co-producer Jon Landau

What a shock.
— Madonna, drolly announcing yet another *Titanic* Oscar, this one for best original song

I've had a sinking feeling all night right up to here.
— Best actor winner Jack Nicholson, referring to the night's big film, *Titanic*

I just want to thank everybody I ever met in my entire life.
— Best supporting actress Kim Basinger

And most of all, I want to thank my father up there, the man who when I said I wanted to be an actor, said, "Wonderful, just have a backup profession like welding."
— Robin Williams, accepting the best supporting actor award

Thank you, Ben and Matt. I still want to see some ID.
— Williams, joking about his young *Good Will Hunting* co-stars, Ben Affleck and Matt Damon

It's the Golden Dude. I've been here three times before and lost. My odds for winning were about the same as the Jamaican bobsled team winning.
— Williams backstage

Heaven, I'm in heaven.
— A dancing Stanley Donen, singing a few words from "Cheek to Cheek" as he accepts an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement. Donen directed or co-directed such classic musicals as *Singin' in the Rain*, *On the Town* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.

So much has changed in the last year. A year ago, the White House was complaining that there was too much sex in Hollywood.
— Oscar host Billy Crystal

That clip cost $15 million.
— Crystal, commenting on a brief segment from *Titanic*, which cost a record $200 million to make

It's been a great night. We're all tired. Matt Damon just hit on Shirley Temple.
— Crystal, wrapping up the telecast (AP)

Wiesenthal film captures award

By DAVID GEFFEN

The Long Way Home, which won the Oscar for best documentary feature, was written and directed by Professor Mark Jonathan Harris and produced by the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Harris graduated from Harvard *magna cum laude* and began a writing/directing career in the 1960s. In 1968 he won an Oscar for his documentary on the redwood trees of the West Coast. He has taught at the USC film school for over 20 years, and his students form the core of the production ranks in Hollywood today.

When the new Skirball Center of the Hebrew Union College was being built in Los Angeles, Harris was asked to submit a proposal for a film on American Jewry today. His proposal was not accepted, but he began to gravitate back to his Jewish roots.

Rabbi Marvin Hier approached Harris about directing and writing *The Long Way Home*. At first, Harris did not think there was enough material to make a film on the period from the opening of the concentration camps in 1945 until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. As he continued his research, he came to realize that there was no film which adequately covered this significant period.

The Long Way Home premiered at the Sundance Festival in Utah in the spring of 1997, receiving rave reviews from the *New York Times* film critic, Janet Maslin. After several benefit showings for the Wiesenthal Center in different parts of the US, the film opened commercially in New York and Los Angeles last fall. Other showings were in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit and, most recently, a two-week run in Miami Beach with standing-room crowds.

Temple Israel of Scranton has been the only synagogue to show the film.

It was screened there on the Sunday between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in October 1997. Over 400 people attended the two showings, including the bishop of Scranton, the president of the University of Scranton, a Jesuit institution, and other leading communal figures. The film will be screened there again in May.

As a result of this film, Harris was commissioned to write and direct the official film for Israel's 50th anniversary. For the last year he has worked diligently and persistently on it.

The Long Way Home will premiere at the Jerusalem Theater on April 27, 1998.

The winners

BEST PICTURE: *Titanic*
DIRECTOR: James Cameron, *Titanic*
ACTOR: Jack Nicholson, *As Good as It Gets*
ACTRESS: Helen Hunt, *As Good as It Gets*
SCREENPLAY (written directly for the screen): Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, *Good Will Hunting*.
SCREENPLAY (based on material previously produced or published): Brian Helgeland and Curtis Hanson, *L.A. Confidential*
SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Kim Basinger, *L.A. Confidential*
SUPPORTING ACTOR: Robin Williams, *Good Will Hunting*
FILM EDITING: *Titanic*
ORIGINAL SONG: "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic*, James Horner and Will Jennings
ORIGINAL DRAMATIC SCORE: *Titanic*, James Horner
ORIGINAL MUSICAL OR COMEDY SCORE: *The Full Monty*, Anne Dudley
ART DIRECTION: *Titanic*
CINEMATOGRAPHY: *Titanic*
VISUAL EFFECTS: *Titanic*
COSTUME: *Titanic*
SOUND EFFECTS EDITING: *Titanic*
SOUND: *Titanic*
MAKEUP: *Men in Black*.
FOREIGN FILM: *Character*, The Netherlands
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE: *The Long Way Home*
DOCUMENTARY (short subject): *A Story of Healing*
LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM: *Visas and Virtue*
ANIMATED SHORT FILM: *Geri's Game*
HONORARY AWARD: Director Stanley Donen
GORDON E. SAWYER AWARD: Don Iwerks, for accomplishments in the field of motion picture science and technology
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AWARD: Gunnar P. Michelson, developer of an advanced electronic light valve for machines that strike movie prints (AP)



Kim Basinger, Robin Williams, Helen Hunt and Jack Nicholson enjoy their success. (Reuters)

Korsantiya not fazed by bloody keyboard

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto has been described in numerous ways, but no one ever deemed it a bloody concerto. But on Monday evening at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Georgian pianist Alexander Korsantiya had to stop his performance after the second movement, as one of his nails broke and blood was dripping on the keys.

After a few minutes of anguish he left the stage, returning after a brief pause with a bandage on his finger and completed the performance, to the audience's enthusiastic applause.

After the concert, when friends inquired if he was all right, he took it all very courageously, almost nonchalantly, saying, "At least I was able to complete the concert."

This is Korsantiya's official IPO debut, but it is not really the first time he has played with the orchestra.

Three years ago he performed with the IPO during the final stage of the Eighth International Artur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition, which he won.

Now he is in Tel Aviv again and, by mere coincidence, at the time when the Ninth Rubinstein Competition is taking place.



Alexander Korsantiya

Despite the fact that he is very interested in what happens at the competition, Korsantiya avoids going to it.

"I'm keeping my distance. If I go, I might increase or decrease the luck of some performers. I have friends competing here, and I think that my presence could do more harm than good. Besides, I do not have much time; I'm very busy with my IPO concerts."

Korsantiya has some sound advice for the eventual winner of the competition.

"We all know how important competitions are. I myself have participated in quite a few. While winning is the most important thing when you are competing, once the competition is over, your goal changes. Winning is just the first stage in the hard road to success. At the end of the competition, of course, everybody loves you and everything seems so accessible to you, but you must keep it all in perspective because only years after will you see if you are indeed on the right path."

In retrospect, he adds, he can say that he was not ready for the first prize he won at the 1988 competition in Sydney. "The Rubinstein Competition was a different story altogether. Now I feel that I can take responsibility for my career."

The Georgian pianist, who makes his home in the US, also has advice for the many pianists who will not win the competition.

"Not succeeding at some stage in life is painful but you can't, you must not, escape it. However, you should benefit from everything you do and there is no reason to regret. The most important thing is not to blame the judges or the stories about backstage mafia, even though we know there is some truth to them. You simply have to take it as it is and go to the next stage in life with strength and conviction."

For Korsantiya, the Rubinstein award resulted in numerous projects with Israeli orchestras, probably more than any past winner of this competition.

This summer he will conduct master classes in Galilee, and next season he has concert dates with the Israel Camerata Jerusalem and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, including international tours with both.

Alexander Korsantiya plays Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto with the IPO tonight and Saturday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30, except 9 on Saturday).

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Yeltsin's surprise

Russian President Boris Yeltsin did not get to where he is by being cautious. Thought to be near death both physically and politically, Yeltsin has surprised even those who have come to expect surprises from the mercurial leader. The summary dismissal of the entire cabinet, including Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, shows that Yeltsin is still the boss, but not whether Russia's democratic evolution will be helped or hindered.

When Mikhail Gorbachev was the toast of the West and glasnost became a household word, Boris Yeltsin was widely dismissed as a charming buffoon.

Yet it was Yeltsin, a life-long communist bureaucrat, who dramatically quit the party and transformed himself into the leader of Russia's radical reformers, and was elected Russia's first post-communist president.

On his climb to the top, Yeltsin developed a pattern of overcoming obstacles, not by slowing down, but by stepping on the gas. In his first two years in office, Yeltsin fired two prime ministers, Ivan Silayev and Yegor Gaidar, before settling on Viktor Chernomyrdin in 1992.

Chernomyrdin, as former head of the Soviet energy conglomerate Gazprom, represented a bridge between the huge remnants of the overconcentrated Soviet economy, and the young reformers seeking to break things up.

Chernomyrdin's tenure marked a period of slow but steady reform. Yeltsin and his prime minister both rode astride the tension between the oligarchs and the reformers, not letting either get their way completely. As a result, Russia has become something like the Wild West, where the rush is on not so much for gold as for the heights of the chaotic economy.

Along the way, the millions of people who still depend on the government and its companies have not seen the benefits of reforms, and many are not even receiving their wages. Yeltsin may have decided to fire the cabinet in order to preempt a no-confidence motion from the communist and nationalist-dominated parliament. This same parliament, of course, must confirm Yeltsin's choice for prime minister, thereby making it unlikely that Yeltsin will be able to appoint an outspoken reformer to the post.

It is unclear, in fact, where the reformers stand in the wake of Chernomyrdin's ouster. The two ministers considered to favor the most aggressive economic reforms are First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov and First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anatoly Chubais, both of whom were recently demoted by Yeltsin. But Yeltsin's choice as acting prime minister was Sergei Kirienko, the 35-year-old minister of energy who is also considered an ally of Nemtsov.

Yeltsin is clearly trying to signal to the international community that the mass sacking of the cabinet is not an end to reforms. Most observers believe that Yeltsin will try to continue the balancing act between oligarchs and reformers that characterized the Chernomyrdin years, but with a somehow revitalized cabinet. There is, however, an outside chance that the reported tapping of Kirienko to present a new cabinet signals that Yeltsin is abandoning the "balanced" approach, in favor of administering the sometimes painful medicine of reform more quickly.

There is a limit, however, to how much such modern-day Kremlinology is really predicative. As important as it is, the significance of the Russian central government, in whatever configuration, tends to be exaggerated. Even the most reformist government cannot change the fact that 70 years of communism all but destroyed certain social mores that are taken for granted in the West: a basic respect for the rule of law and for the idea that the government exists to serve the people. These ideals are certainly not observed perfectly anywhere, but the task of building them from scratch after generations learned to live with the opposite should not be underestimated.

The difficulties facing any Russian government should be kept in mind when facing the current problem of Russian missile technology flowing to Iran.

So far, both Israel and the United States do not believe that Russia is making "100 percent" effort to deal with the problem. But even if the government were making such an effort, this would only go as far as the writ of the government does generally, which may not be far enough.

The fact that world leaders reacted with a certain detachment toward the cabinet shakeup is testimony to both the stability and instability of the Russian situation. On the one hand, most observers believe that, regardless of the legislative power of the communists, communism cannot be reconstructed and a muddled reform process will continue. On the other hand, these same observers should realize that whatever progress has been achieved is fragile and can fall apart in the blink of an eye.

Israel, which has benefited from the Russian export of people and is, at the same time, endangered by its export of weapons technology, must watch developments closely and without illusions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EU DISREGARD

Sir, – During his visit to Israel, the British foreign secretary missed no occasion to stress that the approach of the European Union to the problems of our region "was grounded firmly in the Oslo Accords." In view of his deplorable behavior, it seems only appropriate to remind him that, at least as far as economic issues are concerned, the EU conducts its policy with flagrant disregard for these accords.

Last year, the EU signed a free-trade area agreement with the PLO (on behalf of the Palestinian Authority) in clear contravention of the relevant Oslo Accords, namely those signed at Paris (April 19, 1994) and at Washington (September 28, 1995). Both of them stipulate (in Article IX) that the PLO may sign economic agreements only if specifically provided for in these two accords. Even a diligent perusal by Mr. Cook of these documents could not enable him to claim that such a free-trade area agreement was anywhere specifically mentioned therein.

In other words, where the economic interests of the EU are at stake, neither Britain nor her European partners show the slightest compunction when signing an agreement with the PLO, which clearly violates the Oslo Accords. Moreover, not only does this free-trade area agreement run counter to the basic economic principle laid down in the Oslo Accords, namely the free movement of goods etc. between Israel and the Palestinian territories in both directions; it clearly infringes the rules of the WTO – the World Trade Organization. But that, as they say, is another matter.

EPHRAIM F. HARAN
Former ambassador to GATT.

Omer.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Sir, – When the Zionist and Arab leaders of the day were lobbying actively at the 1919 Versailles Peace Conference for the independence of their respective nations in the Middle East, they showed a degree of mutual respect and cordially well worth emulating by their succesors today.

In a letter (March 1, 1919) to Professor Felix Frankfurter, the Emir Feisal wrote: "We Arabs... look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement... we will wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home. With chiefs of your movement, especially with Dr. Weizmann, we have had and continue to have the closest relations. He has been a great helper in our cause and I hope the Arabs may soon be in a position to make the Jews some return for their kindness. We are working for a reformed and revived Near East and our two movements complete one another."

Maybe now that nearly 80 years later both our peoples are still in the midst of a "peace process," our leaders and our teachers may still find meaning in these guidelines.

LUCIEN HARRIS

Jerusalem.

CLOAK OF WORDS

Sir, – The literary and metaphorical language used by Professor Bernard Wasserstein in his articles may be meant to impress, but has the opposite effect on any intelligent reader.

Beneath the transparent cloak of words lies the man's vituperation, glaring hatred and bias, which can only be self-defeating. How can anyone treat seriously his writing that sinks below the level of any contributor to a respectable newspaper?

Might I humbly suggest that the learned professor take time out to go on a TACT-finding mission to learn how to be acceptable as a protagonist in a controversy requiring accurate knowledge of subject and a cool rational approach.

MILLIE DONBROW

Jerusalem.

AN HONOR!

Sir, – The Women in Green are honored to have upset a self-hating Jew like Bernard Wasserstein with our demonstration against British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook ("Feeding the Crocodiles," March 23).

As long as we are able to upset the likes of Bernard Wasserstein, we know we're on the right track in our struggle to save the people of Israel.

RUTH and NADIA MATAR

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Fifty years ago: On March 25, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the "Battle of the Roads" began when the Hagana launched a countrywide campaign against Arab traffic in reprisal for recent attacks on Jewish traffic. Arabs ambushed convoys on roads near Jerusalem and in the Jezreel Valley; the toll in these actions was 36 Arabs and 17 Jews killed and many wounded.

25 years ago: On March 25, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported on the death of Haim Hazaz, 74, the doyen of Israel writers, who died in Jerusalem after a heart attack.

Alexander Zvielli



The real problem

MOSHE ZAK

President Clinton doesn't need to make an official announcement of the American bridging proposal between the positions of Israel and the Palestinian Authority on an IDF withdrawal in Judea and Samaria.

The damage has already been done: The Palestinians already know the Clinton administration's position, and they see it as a kind of certificate of exemption from direct bilateral negotiation with Israel.

The Syrians are using the same technique. In the past Assad was asked a hypothetical question by the American secretary of state: Assuming that Israel agrees to withdraw to the June 4, 1967, borders, will Syria be willing to promise certain security arrangements, or a gradual withdrawal, in return?

Assad didn't agree to these conditions, but now he is asking for Israeli agreement to total withdrawal, on the basis of the conditions in the hypothetical question, as the starting point for the resumption of the talks. This demand blocks the resumption of negotiations with Damascus, and even interferes with a settlement in Lebanon.

Although the government has focused its claims on the question of the 4% gap between its proposal and the US proposal, this emphasis is mistaken. The real problem is something else: creating a precedent that is liable to destroy the doctrine of direct bilateral negotiation which has been at the root of Israel's foreign policy for half a century.

True, the American document proposes that during the 12 weeks of the withdrawal negotiations between the two sides on the permanent settlement should resume, but what negotiations can succeed after Arafat has made up his mind that he doesn't have to make any compromise with Israel?

All he has to do is dig in, refuse to meet the prime minister of Israel, and create an atmosphere of imminent eruption. Then the Americans will make a proposal of their own, assuming that Israel won't be able to refuse it without coming into conflict with the US.

Dennis Ross, who authored the document, composed a similar clause in January 1997 in a document used as the basis for the Hebron Agreement. In it, too, the PA committed to stop all acts of incitement and provocation against Israel. And what happened then?

Not only did Arafat's Fatah organization arrange demonstrations including the burning of Israeli flags, but even the official Palestinian representative at the UN agencies in Geneva submitted protests against Israel which led to rioting in the Palestinian streets.

One of the allegations was that Israel had infected 300 Palestinian children with AIDS. Under pressure from the chairman of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Palestinian representative Nabil Ramlawi was compelled to apologize and withdraw his complaints, but the apology wasn't reported in the Arab and Palestinian press.

Now Ross is reviving the commitment to prevent incitement, and has added an operative clause: "The Palestinian Authority and Israel will establish a joint committee to investigate cases of incitement."

Another promise, another committee.

TO be sure, the American document is better for Israel than the document prepared by the European Union. I would not rule out the possibility that the Americans asked Britain to put forward extreme demands on Israel, including stopping construction in Jerusalem and preventing the expansion of settlements, in order to draw attention to the fact that the US isn't pressuring Israel on such sensitive issues as Jerusalem and the settlements.

But let us not forget that what we have seen is only a draft. The Americans may add requirements and clarifications to one side or the other, beyond what appears in the bridging proposal. These may include a sudden American clarification on the settlements, or perhaps on construction in Jerusalem.

The extent of the IDF withdrawal in Judea and Samaria, in other words the gap between the percentage suggested by the government and that suggested by the Americans, will not bring down the government.

On the other hand, if the prime minister can't promise that the Americans won't sneak in harsh conditions to their bridging proposal on settlements or construction in the capital, then his government will fall. An American promise to the Palestinians on limitations to the expansion of the settlements would also cause a shock to the political establishment which would bring the negotiations to a standstill until after the next Knesset elections.

I am greatly concerned at the prospect of such an incautious step by the Americans, because of the message that the president of Iran sent to Clinton via Arafat. The US is looking for a way to appease Iran, and Hatami has prepared the bait: Iran is willing to stop its support of Palestinian terrorist organizations if the US agrees to Arafat's demands.

In his own subtle phrasing: Iran will accept a settlement agreeable to the Palestinians. This statement from Iran poses a new challenge to Israel.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

Wrong end of the stick

PINCHAS LANDAU

Belatedly – as usual – the Israeli financial sector is waking up to the fact that when Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said that he would make the shekel a fully-convertible currency by May 1998, he meant just that.

As a result, there is now a flurry of activity, and rather more than a flurry of worry, verging on panic, regarding the impact of the forthcoming changes in the area of foreign exchange control. However – and again, as usual – much of the financial sector and, even more so, most of the financial press, are not clear on what convertibility is likely to mean.

The focus of the debate, such as it is, is firmly on the perceived threat of a flight of capital abroad: the argument is that since the coming relaxation of foreign exchange controls will remove most of the remaining restrictions on capital movements between Israel and abroad, the way will be open for Israelis to buy large quantities of foreign currency and send the stuff overseas.

There then follows an analytical non sequitur, which says that since this will be possible, it is likely to happen, and therefore convertibility comprises a great threat to the country's economic and financial stability.

In the light of this threat, the proposed foreign exchange deregulation should be a) scrapped or, b) watered down or c) deferred until such time as "the economy is ready for such a drastic measure."

This so-called analysis, however, is actually arrant bilge. The fact that moving funds abroad will, at least in some cases, become easier as a result of the shekel being made fully convertible does not, in and of itself, make such movements more likely. Furthermore, for most practical purposes, movement of funds abroad has been easily available for some years, yet no large-scale outflow has occurred; on the contrary, there has been a massive net inflow since 1995.

This absence of capital flight in recent years, when it was easily possible to do so legally or semi-legally, should be contrasted with the huge outflow of capital that really did occur in the first half of the 1980s, which was executed by methods largely or wholly against the law – because of the very stringent exchange control regulations then in force.

The lesson to be learned from this comparison, and which is echoed by the experiences of numerous countries around the world, is that capital flight occurs in response to a loss of faith in the currency and, in particular, in the economic policies of the government of the country in question.

Conversely, where a country implements sensible economic policies that promote stability, its currency remains firm and, more often than not, it attracts capital inflows.

That is especially the case when that country is engaged in crushing inflation by means of a very tough monetary policy. This, of course, accurately describes Israel in recent years and into the foreseeable future.

THE establishment and maintenance of a policy of high real interest rates attracts foreign capital to domestic investments and/or encourages domestic corporations to borrow in foreign currency. In both of these cases, the result is a revaluation, in nominal or real terms, of the domestic currency.

True, where there are fundamental economic imbalances, such as a huge trade or balance of payments deficit, the maintenance of policies that result in the currency becoming overvalued, will become unsustainable. That is a nice way of saying that you can drive yourself into a Mexico-1994 or Thailand/Malaysia-1997 type of crisis, if you really try hard.

However, the current Israeli situation is that the Bank of Israel, via its murderous monetary policy, and aided and abetted by the Treasury's tough fiscal policy in 1996/97, has avoided that trap by driving the country into a deep and long recession. Yes, that has caused unemployment and is eliminating entire swathes of Israeli industry. But it has also halved the balance of payments deficit and restored order to the government's finances.

Since capital flows are focussed on the latter, rather than the former, they have continued to flow into Israel, rather than out of it.

Making the shekel convertible represents the completion of the long-running process of foreign currency deregulation. When it happens, the case for fleeing from shekels into foreign currency will not be one whit stronger.

However, the case for buying shekels and investing in Israeli *financial instruments*, especially short- and long-term government bonds, will be much stronger – at least in the view of foreign financial institutions.

Therefore, the "threat" of a run on the shekel is, under current circumstances, a non-starter. The more likely result of the shekel's impending accession to the status of full convertibility will be to considerably enhance the attractiveness of Israeli fixed-income investments, spurring increased inflows and – at least initially – driving the shekel's value up.

Beyond that, the prospects should be for considerably more volatility in the shekel's exchange rate, versus the dollar, sterling, the forthcoming euro and other currencies. But although volatility can be a threat that needs to be addressed, it is not part of a doomsday scenario, and certainly does not represent a reason for delaying (yet again) an important economic reform that is long overdue.

The writer comments on financial affairs.

Resolving conflicts

DAVID NEWMAN

The setting is the city of Bilbao, the largest city in the Basque region of northwest Spain. It may be an odd setting for a discussion of the complexities of the Israel-Palestine peace process, but the audience is attentive. They have come to hear whether there is anything they can learn from the lessons of Israel and the Palestinians for their own attempts to reach some form of solution concerning Basque autonomy and self-government, and simultaneously put an end to the violence.

The Israeli participants are just one of five groups from around the world who are attempting to peacefully resolve their ethnic and political problems. In addition to the Basque and the Israeli representatives, there are also teams from Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland and South Africa.

South Africa is held up as the success story of the five, a relatively smooth transition from apartheid to a democracy, in which political power has passed from the white minority to the black majority without major bloodshed or outflow of white refugees. No, not everything is perfect in the new South Africa, but compared to the situation that existed less than a decade ago in this country, the transformation to black majority rule has been remarkably successful.

For its part, Israel-Palestine and Sri Lanka are held up as the least successful of the five cases. In Sri Lanka, no meaningful negotiations between the Tamil majority and the Sinhalese minority are taking place, while in Israel the negotiations, which promised so much just two years ago, have all but broken down.

In all cases, the activities of extreme groups, opposed to the peace processes, who see such dialogue as being a sell-out rather than a move towards long-term stability and peace, threaten to put an end to the negotiations. It is difficult for governments to continue to negotiate when violence and terrorism continues to take place.

Other countries have much to learn from the failures of the Israel-Palestine peace process

The Basques are eager to listen and to learn. This region, known by its inhabitants as the Basque country as an expression of their desire for greater autonomy from Spain, is preparing its own proposals for discussion. For the past 15 years, the Basques have had their own elected regional parliament, but for many of them it is insufficient.

DESPITE the obvious differences between each of the cases, there is much to be learnt in this form of comparative workshop. Under what conditions do peace processes take place at the outset? What makes the two sides decide to recognize the value of talking to, rather than fighting with, the other in an attempt to find acceptable solutions? To what extent is it important for external actors to be brought in as mediators and diplomatic go-betweens?

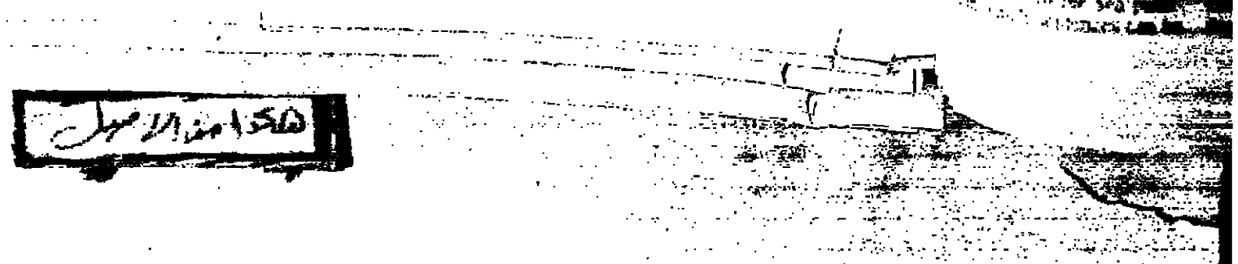
And, perhaps most important, what is the role of continued violence in bringing the peace processes to a halt, in turning the clock backwards to the pre-conflict resolution stage?

But peace processes are not simply about getting the leaders of both sides together around the conference table. They are also about the need to create a new atmosphere in which the peoples on both sides begin to believe that the long-term dividends of peace are greater than that of continual conflict. Persuading them that the "Other" does not represent an automatic threat to their own existence, and in ensuring that all populations, including the minority groups, will eventually have their own, and equal, forms of representation and self government.

In Israel, we have managed to undergo transition from conflict to negotiations, but we have done nothing to convince either Israelis or Palestinians that there are real long-term dividends to be gained from peace. We have not succeeded in putting an end to the violence practiced by extreme groups on both sides and which has virtually brought the process to a standstill.

It is a lesson to be learnt by others attempting to go down the same path of reconciliation. For without grass-roots support, the efforts, however well intentioned, are doomed to failure. And failure brings with it the specter of continued violence and bloodshed. Israel is, unfortunately, the example from which others must take heed if they are to avoid the same pitfalls.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.





Itamar: Can our hero save the sea? (Sivan Farag)

The tortoise and the herring



By Judy Siegel Itzkovich

Itamar Matzil Et Hayam (Itamar Saves the Sea), a CD-ROM in Hebrew by Compedia, for ages four to nine, NIS 159.
Rating: ★★★★

Little did David Grossman, the award-winning author of non-fiction works about the Jewish-Palestinian conflict, realize when he wrote his first children's book that it would be the beginning of a highly popular series of computer-program spin-offs. Compedia, which quickly identified the market potential of the carrot-topped boy named Itamar, has used the character not only to narrate Grossman's stories on the original CD-ROMs but also to present educational games and entertainment on CD-ROMs that have little resemblance to the original stories.

This latest offering, whose rights have also been leased by a computer printer company to promote its products, uses highly professional animation in the form of an interactive adventure. Although Compedia says it's meant for children as young as four, who could play individual games, finding their way around this many-layered program to reach the solution is beyond the abilities of most preschoolers.

The activity begins with Itamar waking to the cry of a red fish in his bathtub drain who asks the boy for urgent assistance. Somebody has pulled the "plug" out of the sea, and all marine life is at risk if the water drains out. Itamar must hurry and find it, as the walrus who is plugging up the hole with his flippers is getting tired.



The popular image of Moses, by Doré

The user is expected to go from one undersea tableau to another, picking up objects – especially prized shells – with his mouse and depositing them in a shell-shaped suitcase at the bottom of the screen. Shells must be deposited in slot machines, public telephones and other devices to make them work as games.

Itamar comes across a tortoise whose backside is stuck in a jar, making him – at least according to our hero – look like a "container of pickled cabbage." The tortoise pleads with Itamar to find his shell, which somebody has taken, and only then will he allow the boy to watch TV with him. The shell, if you need a hint, can be found, worn like a helmet, by an underwater cop.

On another journey, Itamar encounters a lobster who cooks and thinks the boy looks odd for a fish. When the child protests that he is not a fish, the lobster impudently suggests he resembles "gefilte fish with a carrot on top." But the crustacean soon becomes more pleasant and asks him to find ingredients – whipped cream, candies and jam – to make him a cake. Itamar must wander around and, with the user's help, collect these objects and bring them back.

Interspersed among these vignettes are 10 types of games, most of them imaginative: a shooting gallery, solitaire, a fish Pac-man, a soccer game, a memory game, and so on. The most interesting is a *News of the Sea* publication, in which sentences can be sounded by clicking in the right sequence on graphic symbols representing words.

If you despair of finding the rubber plug to stop the sea from leaking, you can consult the enclosed Hebrew-language program manual for a detailed, four-page explanation of all the moves required to solve the problem.

The variety of the games is diverse enough to prevent kids from tiring of them too fast; but once they locate the necessary objects along the way, they may not want to try to find the rubber plug over and over again.

The Bible in Pictures, a CD-ROM picture gallery in English and Hebrew, by Computronik Corporation in Savyon, for all ages, NIS 189
Rating: ★★★½

Gustav Doré was a prolific and successful 19th-century French book illustrator whose black-and-white biblical illustrations were dramatic, romantic and almost theatrical. Their influence can clearly be seen in the great Hollywood epics produced decades ago.

Since Adam and Eve, Moses, David, and all the other biblical characters did not have artists or photographers to capture their images, contemporary man's conception of biblical characters depends on the imagination or on their depiction by artists such as Doré.

Computronic Corporation has collected 119 of Doré's illustrations of black-and-white biblical scenes, colorized them and made it possible to print them out. It has packaged them with 14 maps and 12 video clips and included a competent printed manual. But it's difficult to know which market this program is aimed at.

Doré's illustrations, from Creation to the killing of Queen Athaliah, are mostly familiar to people who have seen reproductions in books of Bible stories. Each picture appears with an appropriate verse that can be read out in Hebrew or English at the click of the mouse.

Desktop publishers of Jewish-related material could find it useful if they need biblical material. If aimed at the bar- or bat-mitzva crowd, it seems to have missed the mark. I can't imagine the average bar-mitzva boy or bat-mitzva girl going through all the illustrations out of pure curiosity.

To view the illustrations, you have to readjust your computer system for 600 x 800 resolution, which is probably not your default setting, so after using the disk, this will have to be switched back.

The map collections include illustrations of the travels of Abraham, the route taken by the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land, the parts of Eretz Yisrael settled by the 12 Tribes, the Kingdom of David and of today's Old City of Jerusalem. These appear in either Hebrew or English and could be useful for schoolwork.

But the video clips – narrated only in English and seemingly aimed at a Diaspora audience with tourism potential – are a hodgepodge that seem to have been thrown in without rhyme or reason.

There are short films of excavations at Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer and the City of David, but also of contemporary children playing in a haredi neighborhood.

The clips have little relevance to the bar/bat mitzva audience and can't be used in desktop publishing.

A new defense of fidelity

Every time you talk to your children about friendship you are preparing them to be loyal husbands and wives, says Catherine Wallace. Susan Reimer hears about her new book on an age-old issue



Telling stories with a moral punch line: Children may not grasp the urgency of erotic desire, but they can learn that gorging on dozens of doughnuts makes you sorry and sick.

When her tearful eight-year-old son ambushed her with questions about condoms and AIDS and whether Mommy and Daddy were safe from disease and death, a flustered Catherine Wallace quickly explained that Mommy and Daddy had exclusive rights to each other and were, therefore, safe from infection by someone else.

"I knew I had to do better than that," says Wallace.

It took longer to craft an answer than she thought. That little boy is a senior in high school now, and her response is as long as a book. In fact, it *is* a book: *For Fidelity: How Intimacy and Commitment Enrich Our Lives.*

A literary scholar on a fast track who left a teaching career to raise her three small children – a task nearly complete now – Wallace has written a thinking person's argument in defense of marital fidelity.

"We all have intelligent kids," she says. "They need intelligent answers. We have to answer their questions without flinching, and tell them that it is not all right to exploit another or to be the mindless victim of our own impulses."

Wallace is Irish Catholic and was educated by nuns, but the case she makes for fidelity is not one from the pulpit, as in: Obey or face eternal damnation. Instead, Wallace makes a philosopher's argument for marital fidelity as the logical extension of honorable friendship.

"Fidelity is more than sexual exclusivity," Wallace says. "That first meaning of the word is narrow and negative. It is rights to someone else's body, licensed by the state.

The word 'fidelity' means *commitment*. To what? To a certain standard of interpersonal behavior, which includes qualities like compassion and self-respect, generosity and integrity.

"I don't think I am inventing anything when I say that adultery is a bad idea and fidelity is a good idea. This isn't news. But what I am doing is offering a new defense of it."

It's not a defense that is based on church law or civil law or inertia or the division of wealth or what the neighbors will say, or even what's best for the kids. It is a defense based on integrity, the same integrity that is the currency, the lubricant, the foundation of all good relationships.

For Wallace, fidelity is a positive choice, a creative act, not just the avoidance of sin. Wallace's book makes heroic those of us who are faithful in marriage because there isn't the time or the opportunity or the guts to be anything else.

But she does more than make us feel good about the default mode of our lives: She tells us how to teach our children to be faithful in a faithless world. Not just sexually faithful to a mate, but faithful to a friend and to ourselves.

MOVIES and television, which create an imaginary world where sex is a recreational sport or the weapon of choice, make it difficult to talk to our children about sexual relationships in the real world – along with their natural and healthy aversion to listening to us on the subject.

"It's okay that it's difficult," says Wallace. "We are respecting the inhibitions and restrictions that protect families from incest. So we have to find other approaches.

"But if you understand instead that marriage is a variety of friendship, then you can talk about friendships. You realize that you are preparing your children to be loyal husbands and wives every time you talk to them about friendship, which we are doing from the time they are three or four years old."

Wallace is careful not to preach, because the kind of personal integrity that produces faithful marriages does not come from a stone tablet. And she doesn't try to frighten her children into fidelity with stories about STDs and AIDS and death because if eternal damnation doesn't keep you home at night, a virus isn't going to do it.

Instead, she tells stories – from the Bible, from the newspaper, from the neighborhood, from literature, from her own marriage – that demonstrate the nature of friendship. They are stories that are easy for a kid to sit through but have a moral punch line, one that gives dimension to vague and grown-up concepts like integrity and commitment and trust.

A CHILD cannot understand the discipline required for sexual fidelity, but he or she can understand a story about the sometimes high price of honesty. It's a lesson Wallace's son learned when the winning basket he had scored was nullified when he admitted that he had stepped out of bounds. His teammates vilified him for telling the truth.

A child may not understand the urgency of erotic desire, but that child can learn, as Wallace did, that you can't eat dozens of glazed doughnuts without feeling ashamed and sick. Instead of threatening "because I said so," she says, "Let me tell you a story."

Sometimes she is inventive, creating what historians call a "usable past," so her children can feel rooted in standards of behavior that support them during conflicts.

"It isn't that I want to block behavior in their lives," Wallace says of her three children, teenagers now. "It is that there are values and commitments I want them to be capable of."

For Wallace, sex is not the definition of fidelity. Sex is a language of fidelity – the ultimate expression of trust. (*The Baltimore Sun*)

When a six-year-old flexes his muscles



By Ruth Mason

Our six-year-old just doesn't listen to us. A typical scene: We're walking into Grandma's house before lunch, and I remind him he can't have candy. First thing, he goes for the candy dish and then comes over and opens his mouth to show me what he's eating.

He's been much more difficult the past six months or so. He's had trouble going to sleep at night, and his kindergarten teacher says he is aggressive toward other children and spends a lot of time in the principal's office.

My mother, who was strict with us, says we're inconsistent and give into him too much. I'm four months pregnant with our second child, but this "phase" began before the pregnancy.

Can you help?

Beth Falk, Ph.D., New York child and school psychologist answers:

It is not unusual for six-year-olds to flex their muscles, becoming more challenging and sometimes provocative. They are straddling the end of early childhood – a time when relatively few demands were made of them and parents were omnipotent – and the beginning of middle childhood, a time when children are expected to exercise more self-control. They will be expected to read and write, and to delay gratification more readily.

For some children this is a rather tense period; and as we know, children often have a hard time verbalizing more complex or subtle feelings, showing us instead how they feel through their actions.

So it's important for you to be aware that, in part, your son's "bad" behavior is age-appropriate, and not necessarily a sign of "bad" parenting.

On the other hand, it's critical that you and your husband cooperate in creating responses that clearly signal the child that you, as the adults in the family, are firmly in charge and will guide him toward developing self-control and respect for others.

Easy to say, of course – and often extremely hard to do!

IF I WERE meeting with you and your husband, I would begin by asking some questions to try and clarify why it has been hard for you to set limits where your son is concerned. Together we would learn how to make the most of your personal styles and strengths.

Questions might include: Are you afraid of your child's anger, making it hard to say no because you will then have to deal with an irate child?

Is there an anger-related issue in your family history that needs to be worked through so you can tolerate and not feel overwhelmed by your child's angry reactions?

Do you have any ideas about what may be fueling your son's "not listening" to you?

What is your son's school experience like? Does he have friends? Has he had any learning problems? Are there perhaps other children close to him who might be "modeling" negative behaviors that he is trying on for size?

Has there been any conflict between you and your husband? Has the child witnessed his father putting you down or acting disrespectfully toward you?

Children frequently act as barometers of parental tension, and your son's challenging behavior could be an indirect way of expressing anger or fear about a marital conflict.

Dissent between parents and grandparents is another avenue to explore. If your mother has been open in her criticism of your parenting, your son might be feeling caught in the middle, which in turn may lead to more testing of limits.

Solutions that will help you get through a tough period will emerge from your answers to the above questions.

Some more suggestions: Plan how you will respond to your son's testing of limits. We find ourselves frequently caught off guard, even though our children's behavior is repetitive and often predicable. A plan helps us think through our responses more rationally, helps us feel more in control.

Children love humor and drama. Try to plan some outrageous or funny responses that will catch the child unawares, but get your point across. For example, next time there is a visit to grandma's, you or your husband might suddenly run into the house yelling, "The candy monster is here – quick, hide the candy dish till after lunch!!!"

Parents tend to take their parenting very seriously. A lighter touch often works wonders.

I HOPE you have friends with whom you can share your experiences. First-time parents sometimes feel ashamed or embarrassed, little realizing that lots of other parents are probably going through very similar experiences. Sharing your problems will yield ideas, and you will feel less alone.

Finally, I suspect that you may be having difficulty asserting yourself in other situations. If this is true, look for ways – with or without professional help – to bolster your ability to make choices and act upon them, and to help you feel entitled to have expectations of your son and of others.

RABIN



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LEAH RABIN

SHALOM HAVER

The Jerusalem Post book department

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THE JERUSALEM POST

Israel – from every point of view

Gardener's Corner



By Batsheva Mink and David Brauner

The peerless lily



Our native lily, the Madonna, is quite rare, found in only a few places on the Carmel and in Galilee. The Crusaders uprooted many bulbs and carried them off to monasteries in Europe.



Illustration: Judith Crown

In folklore, literature and nature, the lily has no rival, except possibly the rose. The classic whiteness, graceful shape and fragrance of its flowers have been associated with a range of human emotions and experiences, including purity, innocence, motherhood, sadness and death.

No plant is more steeped in history than the lily. The ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all used lilies in their funeral and religious rites. The Greek myths and Homer mention lilies. Although there is much scholarly debate on the issue, many believe that the lily is the flower King Solomon refers to several times in the Song of Songs. In the Christian tradition, the lily is associated with Mary and Easter time.

Lilies are native to Europe, North America and Asia, including Israel, where in Hebrew they are called *havatzelet* or sometimes *shoshan/shoshana*. In Arabic it is *sousan*. Sadly, our native lily, the Madonna lily (*Lilium candidum*), however, is quite rare. It is found growing only in a few places on the Carmel and in Galilee on cliffs and in rock crevices. Many lily bulbs were uprooted by the Crusaders and carried off to monasteries in Europe. Today it is a protected wild flower.

Records of lily cultivation stretch back more than a thousand years, making it one of the oldest cultivated plants. The Madonna lily is believed to have reached England in the Middle Ages at the time of the Crusades. But it may have arrived much earlier, as the evidence shows this lily represented in a seventh-century miniature of St. Etheldreda of Anglia. During the reign of Edward III (1312-77), the flower was incorporated in his coat of arms, and later, in 1440, was included in the armorial bearings of Henry VI's College of Eton. The genus *Lilium*, embracing about 80 species of lilies, belongs to the large *Liliaceae* family which includes about 4,000 species of widely distributed plants.

The name "lily" is remarkable in its similarity across the entire spectrum of European languages – Greek, Romance, Teutonic and Slavic. The "li" is believed to suggest whiteness. Also, phrases like "lily-livered," "lily-white" and "gild the lily" are common.

Consider the lily's elegant flowers with their uniquely waxy texture, frequently white but also colored and often sweetly fragrant. Their popularity has never waned, and the plants we see today are descended from the earliest introductions. Lilies are considered one of the classic garden plants, bringing as much timeless beauty to the modern balcony as to the historic walled garden of the manor house.

Breeders did not begin to seriously develop the lily on a commercial scale until the late 19th and 20th centuries. Since then, numerous species have been introduced with an increasing number of "new century" hybrids every year. Demand for these flowers is high, and in fact the other day, we saw lily bulbs imported from Holland on sale in the local supermarket.

Like roses, lilies have undergone intensive breeding and selection. Recently the emphasis has been on improving the quality and choice of the cut-flower varieties for the mass market. This means producing lilies whose pollen will not stain clothing and developing stems whose flowers point skywards. All this work has come at the expense of the garden varieties. For the garden we need reliable, long-lasting plants with interesting growing habits.

The tiger lily (*L. tigrinum*) is one of the most popular and well-known of all lilies. It has been grown for its nutritious potato-like bulb in China, Korea and Japan for more than 2,000 years, but only reached Europe at the beginning of the 19th century. In Europe the newly introduced tiger lily lost its food value, and instead, became a cottage garden flower taking its place alongside lilies of longer standing.

Tigers are among one of the most drought-tolerant of lilies. Some experts recommend tigers for gardeners interested in growing only one lily type, because they are resistant to a common virus that can devastate other lilies.

As we mentioned, many lily types make excellent cut flowers. Sometimes the scent of a single stemmed flower can fill a room or even an entire house with a sweet narcissus-like fragrance.

If you wish to grow plants for cutting, it is important to choose a variety that is easily cultivated, and that has strong stems and long-lasting flowers with a range of forms and colors. Most of the cut-flower varieties are easily grown and very long lasting, blooming up to three weeks in cool surroundings. In parts of Europe you can see lilies growing wild. These are garden "escapes," that is, once domesticated plants that are now growing free. They seem happiest flourishing along the sunlit edges of woodlands or on sunny banks of rivers or roads. They will not be seen growing in the shade of shrubs or trees. At the Botanical Garden we have planted lilies in small drifts near deciduous trees, and they have established themselves nicely and are spreading very well.

What kind of lilies are suitable for your garden may be a matter of trial and error. The best way to find out is to try a few different kinds.

Soil. The secret to successful lily growing is a well-drained, humus-rich soil. Soils with heavy clay or that are cold or wet should be avoided. The majority of lilies will grow in ordinary garden soil enriched with well-decayed compost and plenty of peat moss worked in. If the drainage is poor, it may be necessary to work in some volcanic rock at a lower level.

Position. Choose a portion of your garden that receives at least half a day's sun, preferably in the morning. In warmer regions lilies will do well when planted in partial shade, as long as they receive at least five to six hours of sun during the day. Full sun in the north is recommended. Conversely, lilies will grow in dense shade, but tend to be forever searching for light instead of making flowers.

Planting. The general rule for planting lilies is to plant the bulb at a depth three times its up-and-down length. They are best planted in autumn or in spring.

Care. Many kinds of lilies are stem rooting, in other words, they produce roots from the stem just above the bulb, as well as from beneath it. When the green shoots start to poke out of the ground, this is the time to top dress them with a mixture of compost and peat moss (Heb. *kavul*). Spread it around the newly emerging plants.

Staking. Generally, lilies do not need staking, but if you live in a very windy area it might be a good idea to circle them with a few bamboo sticks held in place with string.

Watering. Don't let lilies go thirsty. If you do, the result will be fewer flowers, or even no flowers at all. During the growing season lilies love a good supply of moisture, but avoid getting the stems and leaves wet when watering. This may result in botrytis blight, a fungal disease which can be treated with a fungicide.

Feeding. A fertilizer high in potash and low in nitrogen is suitable.

Aftercare. Let the leaves die down naturally, which allows them to build up energy for next year's flowers. Remove all dead or dying blooms unless you want to harvest the seeds from the flowers. Plants grown from seed usually take two or three years to bloom. However, the modern hybrid varieties do not breed true to type; in other words, seed-grown plants may not resemble the parent plants. And if you want your lilies to flower the following year leave at least one third of the stem when cutting the flowers.

Lilies can be left undisturbed for years, but if they start to look weak, sending out few flowers, it may be time to divide them. If you are growing them in a very warm region where the winter temperatures do not fall below 7°C., it may be necessary to dig up the bulbs and refrigerate them for 6-8 weeks, thereby simulating the winter rest. But not all varieties may need this treatment.

Growing in pots. Many of the newer varieties of lilies can be grown very successfully in pots. Make sure the pots are fairly deep and filled with a rich mixture of potting soil as described above. Large containers will enable them to be left undisturbed for several years, merely being top dressed with a fresh mixture of compost and peat moss. Lilies grown in smaller containers will need repotting each year. All containers should be free-draining.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morrir@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).

TIP OF THE WEEK:

Here are a few hints for flower arrangers. Remove the leaves from the bottom of the stems that are to be in water. It is best to cut flowers early in the morning. They are best cut when the bud is just beginning to show color.

A good homemade recipe for prolonging the vase life of lilies is a mixture of four liters of water to two tablespoons lemon juice, one tablespoon sugar and half a teaspoon of bleach.

And finally, warm water speeds flower opening, while cold water prolongs flower life.



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Animal anomalies

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul



A new, third tooth in a dog may be an unusual event, but it is simply part of the marvel of the evolutionary processes that have created mammals. (Israel Talby)

I recently received one of the most interesting letters ever written to this column. I didn't dare answer it until I had consulted with several dentists and a number of veterinarians.

A reader in the Dan region wrote: "We have a 13-year-old German shepherd bitch. Four years ago our veterinarian removed her front left incisor because it was full of caries and inflamed. She made a good recovery – and now she is growing a new incisor!

"We went to the vet and she sent us to a dentist who is familiar with animals. They X-rayed the tooth and there is absolutely no doubt. She has a new, clean and healthy incisor! How can this be?"

The evolution of mammals is full of questions. How can an elephant cut six progressive sets of teeth? We do not know. But the phenomenon you describe also happens in humans.

I know a woman of almost 70 who has grown a new molar where a long-lost molar once was. Her dentist wants to extract it as an anomaly, but she refuses. It's true that she cannot have an effective dental plate until the tooth is gone, but she sees it as special. Who can blame her?

In the course of mammalian evolution many things have appeared and subsequently disappeared. Occasionally a human baby is born with a tail. It is removed at birth, and no one ever talks about it. Sometimes even the parents do not know.

Some people are born with extra digits: an excessive toe or finger. These are also removed soon after birth, and no one is the wiser.

By the same token some animals and humans cut extra teeth, just as there are animals and humans – especially humans – who sometimes have supernumerary nipples that look like moles on their bodies.

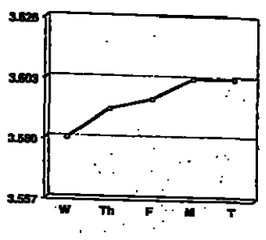
All these signs are simply witnesses to our mammalian ancestry. A new, third tooth in a dog or human may be an unusual event, but it is simply part of the marvel of the evolutionary processes that have created the mammals.

When we look at phenomena like this, we have to take the long view: Nothing is static, nothing is definite. A tooth here or there, a tail or a tag – it matters not in the overall beauty of mammalian evolution.

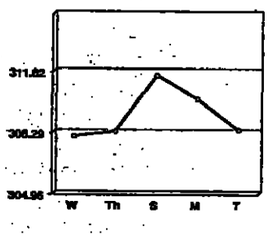
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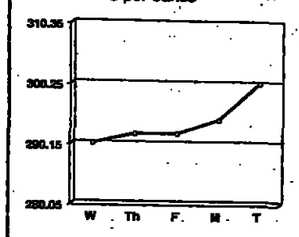
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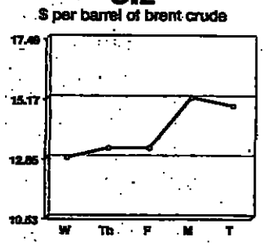
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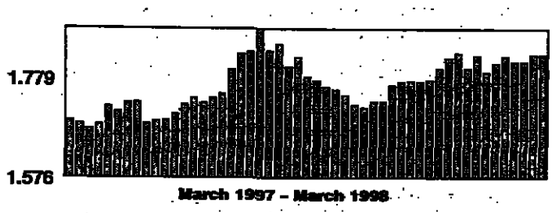
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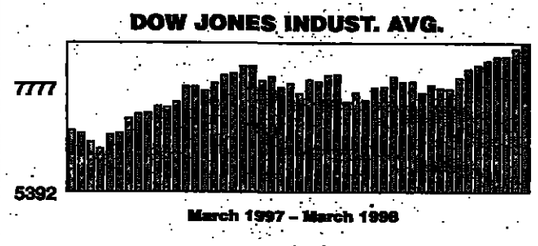
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Knesset expected to expand price-labeling rules today

By NINA GILBERT

The Knesset Economics Committee is expected today to approve a series of amendments to price-labeling regulations which will require the labeling of all packaged products except for bagged milk, chairman Avi Yehezkel (Labor) said yesterday.

Yehezkel said only four out of 15 MKs on the committee are expected to vote against the proposed amendments, introduced by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

Sharansky has asked for all dairy products, food items sold in bins or display boxes and cases, frozen chicken and motor oils, which have enjoyed an exemption from price labeling, to be included in the regulations. He has also threatened to withdraw the legislation if the committee makes any changes.

However, Yehezkel said yesterday that the committee does not tend to approve legislation en bloc, and that he believed that the ministry would not withdraw the measure if labeling was approved for everything except for bagged milk.

The regulations would take effect in three months. As a result, prices will have to be placed on each item sold, including drink bottles and cans, soup packages, humus containers, candy bars and packaged snack foods.

In a committee hearing yesterday, Yehezkel noted that beyond Sharansky's legislation the problem with price-labeling is enforcement. He called on the ministry to double the amount of inspectors and for the public to file complaints.

Antitrust Authority director David Tadmor said price labeling is a crucial element to ensuring competition. "It lets the consumer choose between products. The comparison of prices brings down prices," he said. "More information means greater competition."

"The labeling of the price on the product is not an issue of cost to supermarkets, but convenience," he said. "The supermarket chains are afraid of competition, that is why they don't want price labeling."

However, representatives of the supermarket chains said price labeling is unnecessary and archaic, since prices are marked on shelves and given modern technology, such as bar codes.

Super-Sol president David Alphandary suggested that shelves be installed with dividers so the labels can be clearly matched to the products. "The use of pricing guns will introduce more mistakes," he said. "People are smart enough to read the shelves."

Co-op chairman Ya'acov Gelbard suggested that stores be allowed to use digital labels linked to a central computer, so that there would be no confusion between labels and the register prices.

Tnuva president Gedalya Gal said the best way to inform consumers is to have the price on the product, but that the need to expedite the transfer of dairy products from factory, to truck and then to the shelves, is more important.

A representative of small food shops, Eli Boubli, said it is unfair to enforce the regulations on small stores, which have less personnel and are being pushed out of the marketplace by the large chain stores. "No one, not even my son, will come help me mark prices on milk products at 5 in the morning," he said.

The Israel Consumer Council blasted the attitude of the supermarkets. "Prices are deliberately left off products to make more money from consumers," said chairman Ariella Ravdel-Nedkov.

She called on the committee to respect consumers' wishes and said that a survey has found that 84% prefer to have prices marked on products.

IDB net income drops 20.6%

Discount workers hold wage protest

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Bloomberg

Israel Discount Bank yesterday reported a 20.6 percent drop in net income last year to NIS 199.9 million from NIS 251.6m. in 1996.

In the fourth quarter, net income fell 48% to NIS 7.1m. from NIS 13.6m. in the same period in 1996.

The bank's news conference in Tel Aviv was canceled yesterday when management decided not to arrive due to a protest at the entrance to Beit Sokolov by workers over their wage agreement and the failure to move to a five-day work week.

"Management refuses to hold a press conference under the threat of violence," the bank's spokesman announced to journalists. Management added that it was not willing to hold the conference under police protection.

The bank, the country's third largest, attributed the drop to two non-recurring factors – a voluntary early retirement program, amounting to NIS 94.6m., which is being implemented as part of an efficiency plan, and measures taken to "hedge the dollar risk in real terms of its investment in Israel Discount Bank of New York."

The bank expects to reduce salary costs this year, following completion of the early retirement program.

Assets in 1997 were valued at NIS 83.7 billion, compared with NIS 82.7b. in 1996. Deposits from the public totaled NIS 74b., compared with NIS 71.3b. a year earlier.

The drop in fourth quarter earnings was attributed to lower earnings from lending and higher provisions for bad loans.

Provision for doubtful debts in the fourth quarter was NIS 170.7m., up from NIS 158.8m. the year before.

The rise in charges for bad loans "stemmed from the slowdown in the economy. Close to one-half were in the construction and real estate industries," said Discount Bank CEO Avraham Asheri.

He said real estate and construction account for about 30% of the bank's loan portfolio.

Whether the bank will be able to reduce bad debt provisions this year depends on the economy and the real estate market, according to Doron Tsur, head of research at Shahar Securities.

He said Discount's return on equity of 4.6% last year lags behind other large Israeli banks, which have returns of 10% and more.

Income on loan activity after provisions for bad debt was NIS 405m., down from NIS 420.5m. in the fourth quarter of 1996.

Government officials have said they want to sell off the state's 51.5% holding in Israel Discount Bank before the end of this year.

Last year, the government sold a controlling stake in Bank Hapoalim Ltd., the country's largest bank.



Passport of the future

A Malaysian immigration official displays a specimen of the first-ever passport to include an identity chip. The chip, embedded in the back cover, stores information on the bearer, including fingerprints and photograph. (AP)

Capital inflows up 60%

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The non-financial private sector's capital imports rose 60 percent last year from 1996 to $7.4 billion, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

However, the bulk of the increase was registered during the first half of the year, while in the last six months only $1.4b. was imported by the non-banking parts of the business sector.

The decline in foreign-currency denominated borrowing during the second half of the year was not coupled by repayments.

During the first half of the year, the central bank detected a sharp increase in foreign-currency denominated borrowing by Israeli residents, apparently reflecting a widespread assessment that the shekel would continue to maintain a relatively solid exchange rate.

This tendency, said the bank, could in turn be attributed to a favorable judgment on investors' part of the improvements in the current-account deficit and the continued inflow of foreign investments, set against the backdrop of interest rates which are higher than the rates offered on foreign currencies.

The central bank attributed the sharp decline in forex borrowing to the public's apparent concern over the repercussions of the Asian financial crisis.

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Customs and VAT Management
Material Resources Department
Tel. 02-670-3482/3

Tender 5/98
Installation of an X-ray Inspection Platform in the Customs Facility in Ashdod Port

1. The Customs and VAT Authority invites bids for installing an X-ray inspection platform in the customs facility in Ashdod Port.
2. The bids (in NIS) and purchase conditions must comply with the general and technical requirements, as detailed in the technical specifications.
3. The bid will be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submitting the bids.
4. Bids must include the cost of providing an annual repair and maintenance service for ten years, following the one-year warranty, as detailed in the quantities list.
5. The following documents must be attached to the bid:
   a. Proof of registration for the last two years in the Contractors' Registrar, Classification 100 Gimmel-1.
   b. The bidder is a registered contractor, with proven experience of at least five years in carrying out work of the scope and classification of Para. 5a.
   c. A bank guarantee for 10% of the amount of the bid, including VAT, guaranteeing the bid's implementation.
   The guarantee will be unconditional and should be made out to the Customs and VAT Authority of the Ministry of Finance. It should be valid for 120 days from the last date for submitting the bids.
   d. A copy of the bidder's authorized trader's certificate for VAT purposes.
   e. Confirmation issued by an income tax assessing officer or an auditor that the bidder keeps account books, as required by the Income Tax Ordinance.
   f. The bidder must attach all the documents required in the general conditions to demonstrate that he meets the tender pre-conditions and technical specifications.
6. The tender documents can be purchased for NIS 200 (non-refundable), paid into Account 0-050055 at the Postal Bank. The details of the tender should be marked on the receipt and be attached to the bid.
   The tender documents can be obtained at the Material Resources Department, Customs and VAT Authority, 6 Rehov David Hamelech, 3rd floor, Jerusalem, on presentation of the receipt.
7. If all the required documents are not submitted the bid will not be considered.
8. A tour for contractors at the site will take place on March 30, 1998 at 11 a.m.
   The group will meet at Gate Heh at the entrance to Ashdod Port.
9. The last date for submitting bids is April 6, 1998 at 12 noon.
10. The bid should be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, with a receipt, or in person, to the following address:
    Bid for Tenders Box Tender 5/98
    Room 214, Customs and VAT Authority, P.O.B. 320 32 Rehov Agron, Jerusalem 91002.
11. The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to hold a series of clarification's with each bidder, if it considers it necessary and at its sole discretion.
12. The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to conduct negotiations with each bidder, if considered necessary and at its sole discretion.
13. For further details and technical clarifications, contact Mr. Yoram Tibi, Divisional Manager, Tel. 03-513-0940, 052-637057.
14. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.
    The Customs and VAT Authority may order only part of the work from a bidder, at its sole discretion, and bidders will not be eligible for compensation from the management for exercising its right.
    If the management decides to order only part of the work, the agreement signed with the *successful bidder will be for work ordered only, and the actual part of the work that was* ordered from the contractor will serve as a basis for the provisions of the agreement regarding cessation of the work and/or changes, and/or any other provision in the agreement, without the contractor being eligible to receive compensation from the management or to change the prices for any part of his bid.
    This right of the management relates to each of the components of the specifications and list of quantities and not the sections that are specifically mentioned. If the management exercises this right, the agreement will be signed with the successful bidder on the basis of his bid less the cost of the items in the list of quantities that were canceled.

052502

Customs and VAT Management
Material Resources Department
Tel. 02-670-3482/3

Tender 4/98
Supply of Conveyors for the X-ray Inspection Platform at the Customs Facility in Ashdod Port

1. The Customs and VAT Authority invites bids for the planning, production and installation of conveyors for the X-ray inspection platform in the customs facility in Ashdod port.
2. Bids (to be given in NIS) and purchase conditions must comply with the general and technical requirements, as detailed in the technical specifications.
3. Bidders must also submit (as required by the quantities list):
   a. An estimate for providing an annual repair and maintenance service for ten years, following the one-year warranty.
   b. An estimate for dismantling the conveyors and re-assembling them in another shed in Ashdod port.
4. Bids must be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submitting the bids.
5. The cost of the tender documents is NIS 200 (non-refundable), to be paid into Account 0-050055 at the Postal Bank. The details of the tender should be marked on the receipt and be attached to the bid. The tender documents are available at the Material Resources Department, Customs and VAT Authority, 6 Rehov David Hamelech, 3rd floor, Jerusalem, on presentation of the receipt.
6. The following documents must be attached to the bid:
   a. A bank guarantee for 10% of the amount of the bid, including VAT, guaranteeing the bid's implementation. The guarantee must be unconditional and should be made out to the Customs and VAT Authority of the Ministry of Finance. It should be valid for 120 days from the last date for submitting the bids.
   b. A copy of the bidder's authorized trader's certificate for VAT purposes.
   c. Confirmation issued by an income tax assessing officer or an accountant that the bidder keeps account books, as required by the Income Tax Ordinance.
   d. All the documents listed in the general conditions of the tender and the attached technical specifications.
7. Bids which do not include all the required documents will not be considered.
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12. The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to conduct negotiations with every bidder, if it considers it necessary and at its sole discretion.
13. For further details and technical clarifications, contact Yoram Tibi, Divisional Manager, Tel. 03-513-0940, 052-637057.
14. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

052504

Turkish business delegation to visit next week

By NINA GILBERT

Twenty industrialists involved in Turkey's massive infrastructure project, the GAP, in southeastern Anatolia, are to visit here next week, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday.

Sharansky, on a three-day visit to Turkey, asked the Turkish government to enable Israeli companies to participate in tenders for Turkish infrastructure projects.

The delegation will be hosted by the Israel Export Institute. In May, a delegation of 50 Turkish businessmen is to arrive.

The GAP includes the construction of dams and irrigation of dry land, as well as development projects in agriculture, energy, transportation, and telecommunications.

Sharansky, who opened the annual session of the Israel-Turkey Business Council yesterday, said there is also great potential for joint Israeli-Turkish projects in the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union.

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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Israel Sun

No one is more in favor of sending mail the good old-fashioned way than **Dov Golan** (right), chairman of the board of the Kibbutz Gvaram envelope factory. Golan, along with Labor MK **Eli Goldschmidt**, attendend the inauguration of the factory's new wing, which was completed with an investment of $3 million. Part of this sum was used to purchase a new envelope-manufacturing machine from Germany, which can produce 40,000 envelopes a day.

Dozens of Israel's leading economists, who are proud to be known as the "Patinkin's boys," gathered last week at the Hebrew University's Faculty of Social Sciences for the dedication of the Patinkin Library. The library contains the personal collections of the university's former rector and president, Prof. Don Patinkin, who died in 1995.

The scion of a well-known Chicago family, Patinkin was a graduate of Chicago University and one of the Hebrew University's earliest American-born faculty members. He came to the Hebrew University in 1949, having taught previously at the University of Illinois. He was considered the father of the academic discipline of economics in Israel and his former students can be found in academia, the civil service and the business community.

Samuel Rothberg, a fellow Illinoisan, a long-time generous supporter of the Hebrew University and a former chairman of its board of governors, was among those who paid tribute to Patinkin.

Victor Sasson has switched allegiance and is now general manager of the Four Points Paradise Hotel in Tiberias, a subsidiary of Sheraton Israel. In the six years before joining the Dan chain, Sasson worked as deputy manager of the Moriah Plaza, Tel Aviv, and deputy manager of the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza. Before that, he held a series of positions at the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Jonathan Fisher has been appointed general manager of Holmes Place Israel, a subsidiary of the British chain of exclusive health clubs. Raised in London, Fisher has an MA from Cambridge University and extensive experience in running health clubs in both England and the US. He came to Israel three months ago to take charge of the local branches of Holmes Place, which will soon begin operating.

Yitzhak Weizman, the deputy mayor of Beit She'an, has been appointed as a member of the board of the Galilee Development Authority.

Eli Ungar, general manager of the Commercial Bank, has informed **Shmil Weber**, the bank's chairman of the board, that he intends to leave his post on April 30, thereby terminating a four-year tenure. However, he will not sever his association with the bank and will continue to sit on its board of directors. Meanwhile, **Eitan Rimon**, the bank's deputy manager, will take over as acting manager until the board reaches a decision about a permanent appointment.

Outgoing Koor CEO **Benny Gaon** is not the only senior executive of the company to quit his post. His deputy **Yehuda Milo**, who is also the company's chief manager of finances, has announced his resignation, due to take effect on July 1. He will continue to function as chairman of the boards of Telrad and Koor Holdings, as well as other Koor subsidiaries, until October of this year.

No random deal

The publishing world is abuzz as German media conglomerate Bertelsmann announces its $1.6b. agreement to purchase Random House, the most prominent US book seller

By DAVID STREITFELD and PAUL FARHI

The German media conglomerate Bertelsmann announced Monday that it is buying Random House, the largest and most prominent American book publisher, from billionaire S.I. Newhouse. The deal makes the privately held firm, once a provincial religious house, the biggest force in US publishing.

Estimated to be worth as much as $1.6 billion, the agreement marks another huge step toward consolidation in the publishing industry. The deal will leave only seven major New York houses – four of them owned by foreign conglomerates.

Random House, whose thousands of authors include John Updike, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, President Clinton, Anne Rice, Pope John Paul II, Norman Mailer and Michael Crichton, has an importance that goes beyond its massive size.

Its books – published under the imprints of Knopf, Crown, Pantheon, Villard and Ballantine, in addition to Random House itself – look better and often are better than most in the industry. Its deals are flashier, with not only its writers but also its editors turning up in gossip columns. Its self-conscious role as the standard-bearer of literature and literacy in this country is sometimes mocked but rarely denied.

With $16b. in revenue during its last fiscal year, Bertelsmann is the world's third largest media and entertainment conglomerate, behind Time Warner Inc. and Walt Disney Co., and ahead of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

It already owns the US publishing empire Bantam Doubleday Dell.

Its best-known author is John Grisham, whose legal thrillers sell millions. Earlier this month, Bertelsmann announced it would go into online bookselling, à la Amazon.com.

Little work got done in New York publishing circles Monday. People were too busy trying to figure out what it all meant.

"Half the earth just moved," said Juris Jurjevics, proprietor of Soho Press, an independent house. "The landscape is irrevocably altered. I don't think there's any precedent for something of this size. It will have book clubs, mass-market paperbacks, multiple hardcover lines. It's everywhere, with five varieties of everything. Who knows what to think? It's just so gigantic."

"I haven't talked to anyone who hasn't expressed great shock," said Andre Schiffrin, who left Random House under bitter circumstances eight years ago to found the New Press. "Everybody's now owned by foreigners."

One measure of the huge clout that the new firm will have is that many agents and editors were reluctant to speak on the record, for fear of offending someone. "It's sad, frightening," said one agent.

"I used to have a list of 75 editors you can send a book to. Now there are 15. It just reduces, once again, the number of choices."

"Sad" was a word that seemed to come up a lot. Said a former Random House executive: "What's really sad is that Random was the independent voice in a culture that has very few independent voices anymore."

One major Random House author, William Styron, said he wasn't much worried: "The company's gotten so enormous and monstrous and bloated, it hardly makes any difference if it passes into the hands of someone else."

The American Booksellers Association, which represents 3,500 independent bookstores, had been concerned about consolidation prior to Monday's announcement. Last week it sued the Barnes & Noble and Borders book chains, alleging that these giants use their clout with publishers to obtain secret discounts and other favorable treatment that undermines independents' ability to compete.

"We are stunned," said ABA spokesman Len Vlahos. "We need to take time to analyze it, and see how it impacts booksellers."

A woman who answered the phone in S.I. Newhouse's New York office Monday said he wasn't in. But the deal apparently was initiated when Thomas Middelhoff, Bertelsmann's incoming chief executive officer, visited Newhouse on his 70th birthday on Nov. 7. Bertelsmann had made no secret that it was in the market for a major acquisition.

"Random was a dream, something we hoped would be available someday," said Peter Olson, chairman of Bertelsmann Book Group North America.

Negotiations, which went smoothly, continued under a veil of secrecy through the end of last week. Newhouse, whose family media empire includes more than a dozen major newspapers and magazines ranging from the *New Yorker* to *Parade*, said via a news release that a decision had been made "to focus its efforts on the management and expansion" of those core businesses.

A source close to the deal said Newhouse had been mulling for a while what to do with Random House, including selling it or acquiring another publisher to introduce greater economies of scale. "It was clear to him that the economics of book publishing are changing for the worse," the source said. "And he's a realist. When it becomes clear he's swimming upstream, he's facile enough to swim downstream."

Another factor, several sources surmised, is that none of the next crop of Newhouses felt so passionately about the business to want to keep it. "The Newhouses decided the next generation had enough on their plates," one source said.

Random House's sales slipped from $1.5b. in 1995 to an estimated $1.22b. in 1996, with profits of about $70m., according to Albert Greco, an associate professor at Fordham University's graduate business school who studies the book business.

Bertelsmann's imprints had sales of about $670m. in both years.

Greco said the combination of two of the largest publishers will invite "scrupulous investigation" by the Justice Department or Federal Trade Commission. But he said he doubted the government would seek to stop it.

"The book industry is moderately concentrated, but given all the factors in play," it would be hard to justify blocking it on antitrust grounds, he said.

Neither of the companies released terms of the deal, but publishing industry sources estimated that Bertelsmann is paying between $1.2b. and $1.6b. for Random House. Newhouse bought Random House from RCA in 1980 for between $65m. and $70m.

At Random House, a notoriously voluble place, no one wanted to talk on the record. There was surprise, chagrin and hope.

"'Thrilled' is not the word around here," said one employee. Said another: "This morning I was speechless. Now I can talk, but I'm still not coherent."

But a third said Bertelsmann "has a good reputation. They seem very interested in books."

Meanwhile, at Bantam Doubleday Dell, a source said: "People are ecstatic. Everyone here always wants to work at Random House. The perception is they do the best books, they attract the best authors.

It's generally a stimulating environment. And now, suddenly, we all do work there. Actually, it's even better – they work for us."

Robert Picard, a professor specializing in the economics of media companies at California State University at Fullerton, said consolidation in the book industry is being driven by high debt levels and shrinking profit margins as more titles and more publishers seek to attract readers. By combining operations, Bertelsmann and Random House will be able to save substantially on overhead – everything from warehouse operations to accounts payable to publicity.

"Books are among the most risky of media products," said Picard.

"The ability to project success is lower than a TV program. You have fewer formulas. With a book, you're throwing it out there, hoping that the public may like it."

But one veteran industry executive, who asked not to be identified, questioned whether Bertelsmann could really achieve enough cost savings to make the deal succeed.

"The whole thing doesn't make sense," he said. "This is like Columbia Pictures merging with Paramount – instead of making 40 movies a year, they make 80 together, but without closing down a studio.... You can cut, but can you do it in a way that will be meaningful?

I am flabbergasted by this." The source close to the negotiations stressed that, at the end of the day, there would be consolidation as employees, books and redundancies are eliminated. "This deal only makes sense if there are economies of scale."

The other owners of top US publishing companies are the privately held Hearst Corp., which has the Morrow and Avon lines; Murdoch's News Corp., which owns HarperCollins; the British conglomerate Pearson, which owns Viking and Putnam; the publicly held Time Warner, which publishes under the Warner and Little, Brown names; the German family Holtzbrinck, which owns Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Henry Holt and St. Martin's Press; and the publicly traded Viacom, which has announced its intention to sell part of Simon and Schuster.

(Washington Post)

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FLEXIBLE					
Abir	231.47	227.40	+ 1.88	+3.24	18.8
Adar Flexible	105.68	104.39	+ 3.16	+3.83	28.0
Afikim Flexible	208.77	205.89	+ 0.76	-0.15	21.8
Ahrayut Flexible	519.21	510.06	+ 4.43	+1.64	3.1
Alomot Flexible	104.13	103.89	+ 1.86	—	7.2
Analyst Diversified	761.38	743.86	+ 3.54	+2.80	66.7
Apex Flexible	166.30	167.59	+ 5.86	+7.99	13.4
Arameides	103.01	100.95	+ 4.18	+7.61	0.3
Aviad	1929.38	1923.50	+ 1.53	+1.18	5.8
Bloch Rotstein Flexible	226.83	222.15	+ 6.92	+7.49	27.2
Clali Flexible	1189.56	1186.22	+ 4.05	+3.64	5.4
Dikla Mamon	279.32	277.21	+ 4.60	+5.15	27.1
Dikla Merav	189.79	189.06	+ 4.49	+5.13	12.0
Dikla Meked	3461.26	3434.78	+ 2.37	+2.68	78.2
Dovrat Shrem Flexible	180.75	177.05	+ 1.32	-0.53	44.8
Emda Idit	4142.87	4097.21	+ 2.92	+3.68	33.4
Epsilon Flexible	160.83	160.22	+ 3.25	+3.10	8.4
Evergreen Flexible	126.92	125.70	+ 2.54	+3.36	10.0
Excellence Flexible	3360.67	3021.78	+ 4.19	+4.49	7.7
Igud Bonds	102.02	101.50	+ 0.53	+2.64	14.5
Igud Flexible	166.56	165.48	+ 3.27	+2.97	22.2
Igud Shekel	134.81	134.81	+ 1.38	+3.33	196.4
Ilanot 30 Plus	159.18	156.38	+ 4.18	+2.18	4.1
Ilanot 90	262.45	257.82	+ 4.11	+2.78	28.7
Ilanot Tidhar	3347.26	3330.40	+ 3.27	+3.05	76.1
Kivun Flexible	125.60	124.48	+ 3.06	+3.00	7.4
Lahak Duhdat	763.19	749.86	+ 3.40	+2.31	70.4
Lamashkua	—	—	—	—	5.7
Lapid	1643.71	1643.71	+ 3.96	+2.43	6.3
Maofim Flexible	161.46	158.47	+ 7.60	+ 15.30	9.7
Maritime Flexible Fund	99.66	97.83	+ 5.32	+8.09	8.6
Merav Flexible	164.79	163.05	+ 2.48	+4.53	3.3
Melamum	111.17	109.48	+ 3.94	+6.05	0.7
Models Shkuta	109.53	107.33	+ 2.81	-3.25	9.3
Models Teuza	100.04	97.97	+ 1.89	+3.44	3.9
Moniz Money Market	135.30	135.30	+ 0.57	+2.81	17.7
Nessua Flexible	2629.08	2612.99	+ 3.04	+1.68	11.9
Netz	120.24	119.78	+ 1.53	-2.17	0.5
Noga	880.16	869.08	+ 1.92	—	47.5
Ofrer Pekan	199.98	196.42	+ 3.06	-2.89	24.1
Otzar Flexible	102.49	100.72	+ 4.48	+1.39	5.4
Pia Hayovel	218.48	217.29	+ 7.92	+8.61	25.8
Pia Keta	910.12	907.85	+ 4.02	+0.97	311.7
Psagot Gamish	612.52	601.56	+ 4.33	+6.34	150.0
Psagot Megama	363.38	360.49	+ 3.18	+8.03	89.8
Ramco Flexible	175.33	173.42	+ 2.13	+2.99	7.2
Saar Flexible	231.93	228.74	+ 5.30	+5.35	5.4
Saar Pekan	199.16	195.62	+ 3.08	+1.99	194.2
Sigma Flexible	103.84	102.80	+ 5.68	+2.96	9.3
Swan	289.54	279.83	+ 7.31	+7.35	66.6
Telescope	121.98	121.85	- 0.11	-3.41	3.8
Yasod Flexible	105.53	103.32	+ 3.48	+3.56	2.1
Yesodot	3160.60	3104.66	+ 2.37	+2.69	42.0
Zeller Flexible	90.78	89.78	+ 2.36	-3.43	2.7
Zion Flexible	15153.74	15046.79	+ 6.09	+6.69	2.6
SHARES					
Adi Pekan	119.83	117.71	+ 3.50	+2.43	61.7
Afikim Shares	269.35	265.35	+ 2.51	+2.86	18.6
Ahrayut Oil & Shares	145.76	142.84	+ 2.23	-7.22	2.1
Ahrayut Real Estate	226.61	222.05	+ 2.97	+0.62	10.4
Ahayut Shares	339.13	333.14	+ 4.70	+1.32	4.1
Analyst Aggressive	159.85	156.14	+ 2.62	+4.71	58.1
Analyst Equity	1247.00	1218.38	+ 4.29	+4.86	142.8
Analyst Industries	385.48	376.65	+ 3.72	+4.19	57.5
Apex Shares	108.54	108.02	+ 7.34	+8.38	10.5
Atlas Pekan	—	—	—	—	34.4
Baran	228.03	227.40	+ 4.36	+5.49	9.5
Bloch Rotstein Shares	114.56	112.26	+10.87	+ 12.42	0.8
Capital Shares	86.23	86.92	+ 8.81	+6.25	3.5
Chemical Pekan	123.57	121.40	+ 4.51	+3.61	8.8
Clals Mazpi	248.02	248.29	+ 5.86	+1.16	25.1
Clali Shares & Conv.	156.85	156.38	+ 6.96	+5.45	2.9
Dikla Masofi	108.74	107.90	+ 4.09	+4.41	15.2
Dikla Madad Madi	212.73	211.60	+ 5.88	+1.87	56.4
Dikla Meretz	546.73	542.53	+ 5.17	-3.67	66.1
Dikla Miftan	122.69	121.74	+ 2.51	-0.05	64.7
Dikla Migzar Finance	133.60	132.61	+ 7.11	+6.25	28.7
Dikla Muud 30	75.18	74.60	+ 4.76	+2.74	44.1
Dikla Mivneh	356.59	353.83	+ 0.26	-0.84	39.1
Dikla Mondial	—	—	—	—	12.3
Dikla Mor	1625.55	1613.09	+ 4.39	+3.53	98.5
Dovrat Shrem Coram	129.74	127.05	+ 2.10	+1.93	18.0
Dovrat Shrem Shares	115.42	113.03	+ 4.31	+3.29	23.8
Emda Export	88.65	87.77	+ 3.20	+3.77	11.3
Emda High Tech	—	—	—	—	4.4
Emda Masof	220.52	218.91	+ 5.74	+1.48	41.7
Emda Paz	191.86	189.84	+ 3.80	+4.58	13.0
Emda Shalhevet	169.99	168.72	+ 4.81	+5.21	17.1
Emda Shemesh	1672.39	1654.59	+ 3.00	+0.15	26.6
Emda T-A 100	2111.09	2088.37	+ 4.42	+3.93	54.7
Epsilon 36	107.89	107.53	+ 4.14	+6.43	14.0
Epsilon Shares	194.87	194.17	+ 3.44	+5.79	12.7
Erez Pekan	351.48	345.20	+ 5.22	+4.69	162.6
Esh	632.21	619.89	+ 6.76	+3.12	2.4
Evergreen High Tech	—	—	—	—	9.4
Evergreen Shares	168.52	167.15	+ 3.08	+4.32	23.0
Excellence Coram	262.11	259.36	+ 6.10	+8.85	9.0
Excellence Shares	622.07	618.86	+ 6.42	+7.92	6.1
Eyal Shares	141.18	141.18	+ 4.83	+4.84	6.9
Gal	119.84	118.30	+ 7.61	+3.32	15.0
Hon Pekan	115.82	113.79	+ 5.76	+2.26	77.9
Igud Coram	108.52	107.84	+ 3.07	-0.50	18.2
Igud Masf	96.29	96.07	+ 5.91	+1.11	10.0
Igud Shares	152.10	151.08	+ 3.88	+3.04	17.0
Ilanot Carmim	172.03	171.13	+ 3.25	+3.26	115.1
Ilanot Communication	116.76	116.13	+ 4.26	+7.50	20.7
Ilanot Dekel	3319.49	3261.70	+ 3.78	+4.12	105.6
Ilanot Finance	101.71	99.95	+ 6.52	+5.54	11.9
Ilanot Globe	—	—	—	—	14.4
Ilanot Masf	209.38	208.38	+ 5.73	+1.92	57.6
Ilanot Nadlan	1495.83	1469.80	+ 2.04	—	36.9
Ilanot Nimrazet	86.82	87.22	+ 4.03	+1.86	8.0
Ilanot Shares	5335.02	5243.08	+ 4.23	+4.31	10.7
Ilanot Shmalom	60.78	59.71	+ 4.32	+3.18	20.0
Ilanot Shesek	964.55	947.64	+ 3.92	+3.83	135.0
Ilanot T-A 100	2918.31	2903.18	+ 5.24	+4.52	73.6
Israel America	—	—	—	—	1.5
Kohav Pekan	176.07	175.51	+ 5.97	+5.70	133.9
Koor Money Market	129.29	129.29	+ 1.71	+4.07	34.0
Koor Shares	99.13	97.89	+ 8.90	+5.43	3.4
Lahak Agrasvit Plus	88.58	87.12	+ 7.88	-0.46	29.2
Lahak Ankor	920.74	900.13	+ 5.09	+5.09	41.3
Lahak Hafrata	339.12	333.13	+ 6.57	+9.30	14.4
Lahak Mikbac Menayot	119.07	118.14	+ 4.90	+4.92	56.9
Lahak Nadlan	136.55	134.15	+ 3.42	+4.39	41.5
Lahak TA-Wall Street	—	—	—	—	17.8
Lahak Tor 100	441.65	440.36	+ 5.31	+2.62	92.5
Lahak Yesu	81.38	81.11	+ 5.96	+9.20	30.4
Lahak Zamir	862.72	857.06	+ 6.21	+5.46	68.1
Maale Masf Pekan	192.36	188.98	+ 5.53	+0.86	77.2
Magic	271.42	266.62	+ 4.21	+2.20	10.8
Metav Opvons	46.15	45.44	+12.61	+9.23	7.3
Metav Shares	216.09	213.85	+ 3.70	+4.64	4.6
Metav Teuza	118.34	117.11	+ 5.59	+5.82	6.5
Mercazi Coram Maniv	70.93	70.72	+ 7.62	+6.59	3.9
Mercazi Masf	197.95	197.46	+ 5.59	+5.67	4.5
Mercazi TA 100	263.67	262.80	+ 6.43	+0.84	3.3
Meritngal Dynamic	104.16	104.06	+ 3.67	+4.22	10.2
Necha Continental	61.71	60.61	+ 5.21	+5.76	15.7
Nesua Shares	488.96	485.91	+ 3.58	+3.99	10.1
Nis T-A 100	1064.80	1050.91	+ 5.35	+3.04	21.2
Omega	124.15	121.96	+ 1.29	-0.15	2.6
Otzar Foreign Int. Par.	147.98	147.98	+ 4.79	+4.37	2.4
Otzar Sal Coram	89.90	88.22	+ 3.15	+0.68	6.6
Otzar Shares	115.53	113.51	+ 4.38	+1.87	7.0
Pekan T-A 100	164.95	164.48	+ 4.94	+2.08	59.4
Pia 2000	100.18	99.62	+ 6.77	+3.01	24.8
Pia Bridgach T-A 100	1026.23	1020.88	+ 4.22	+2.34	69.1
Pia Mamot	143.70	142.90	+ 9.80	+10.45	46.6
Pia Masf	200.84	199.76	+ 5.87	+2.53	94.1
Pia Michlol	801.04	796.90	+ 3.52	+2.62	134.8
Pia Odem	1247.49	1240.77	+ 5.17	+5.39	165.5
Pia Olamit	—	—	—	—	34.9
Pia Yahalom	1098.60	1092.61	+ 5.38	+5.28	71.3
Pia Zmuk	68.23	67.87	+ 7.46	+8.64	42.6
Pritza	—	—	—	—	0.8
Psagot Al	88.75	87.18	+ 6.98	+2.43	39.8
Psagot Focus	116.95	116.33	+ 3.27	+7.48	108.7
Psagot High Tech	—	—	—	—	57.9
Psagot Karam	204.16	200.55	+ 3.92	+8.52	76.3
Psagot Mabat Lashalom	140.55	138.14	+ 2.17	+8.30	47.4
Psagot Menayot	305.23	300.32	+ 3.61	+7.92	157.2
Psagot T-A 100	398.65	396.48	+ 5.55	+8.41	169.0
Raam 90	149.57	146.72	+ 4.38	+0.55	6.6
Smodan Shares & Conv.	82.58	81.34	+ 5.08	+0.20	0.7
Singer Barnea Financial	116.15	114.11	+ 3.76	+1.71	0.6
Singer Barnea Shmura	150.86	150.42	+ 5.56	+5.94	2.8
Tsuot Sufa	155.91	155.03	+ 5.65	+7.94	19.8
Yaar	46.72	46.41	+ 0.11	+5.88	0.4
Zik	367.01	366.00	+ 5.52	+3.96	4.9
Zion Garam	94.90	94.60	+ 4.45	+0.26	11.4
Zion Shares	149.39	148.51	+ 4.14	-0.22	3.7
STATE BONDS					
Ahrayut State Bonds	442.89	437.57	+ 0.37	+0.24	5.5
Almog Pekan	261.34	276.35	- 1.44	-8.11	141.8
Analyst Government Bonds	382.90	387.86	- 0.06	-1.03	33.9
Clali Dolan	1225.74	1222.55	+ 0.83	-0.91	4.7
Clali State Bonds	474.74	473.50	+ 0.51	-0.92	8.7
Dikla Marom	6220.69	6176.80	+ 1.80	+0.79	35.6
Dikla Mivtah	1701.73	1689.27	+ 0.91	+1.33	35.9
Ducas	246.46	245.79	- 0.04	+0.30	17.1
Emda Goverment Bond	1057.73	1049.58	- 1.79	-4.44	49.8
Emda Leshem	1401.14	1387.24	- 1.49	-4.27	29.4
Emda Sella	1371.98	1361.47	- 0.26	-0.03	51.4
Epsilon Gov't Bonds	203.45	202.83	+ 2.01	+2.28	13.6
Gevia	—	—	—	—	67.2
Hila Pekan	528.88	528.88	- 0.57	-1.14	181.4
Ilanot Egoz	1146.70	1138.06	+ 0.24	+0.74	52.1
Ilanot Gov't Bonds	2392.18	2375.67	+ 0.84	+0.99	2.9
Ilanot Tapuah	663.73	660.36	- 1.41	-3.94	29.2
Ilanot Tapuz	1062.31	1054.33	- 0.10	-1.58	101.1
Lahak Eitrot	536.11	526.65	- 1.34	-5.22	38.9
Lahak Shahaf	149.41	146.78	- 0.44	-0.78	55.0
Lahak Shunit	672.09	660.23	- 1.10	-0.92	95.1
Maritime Government Bond	155.15	154.98	+ 1.41	+3.21	9.5
Meitav Gov't Bonds	117.58	116.65	- 0.09	-0.66	10.8
Mekorot Pekan	115.41	113.37	- 1.43	-3.46	19.0
Mercazit Gov't Bonds	155.10	153.97	+ 1.42	+0.40	7.4
Nesua Gov't Bonds	1354.74	1348.13	+ 1.34	+1.79	36.0
Otzar Gov't Bonds	150.99	148.39	+ 0.18	-0.89	14.5
Pia Sheta	237.98	236.68	+ 0.50	+1.22	16.2
Pia Tarshish	139.75	139.01	- 0.24	-1.35	269.7
Pia Zamlid	4581.78	4557.23	- 0.14	-2.06	164.5
Psagot Agach	582.31	571.99	+ 1.06	+2.18	52.1
Psagot Maala	427.80	424.42	+ 0.46	-0.38	53.4
Psagot Madad	550.20	540.48	- 0.36	-2.09	92.6
Shani Pekan	691.88	679.64	- 0.80	-1.89	165.7
Sigma Gov't Bonds	133.88	132.24	+ 0.89	-1.50	1.6
Yaara Pekan	563.55	553.59	- 1.78	-4.13	72.1
Yavul Pekan	716.07	713.96	- 0.55	-3.18	169.7
Zw	604.37	598.70	- 0.43	-1.79	40.0
Zohar	502.82	496.51	+ 0.28	-1.18	57.4
COMPANY BONDS					
Afikim Bonds	331.73	327.28	- 0.90	-1.15	61.9
Ahrayut Bonds	192.02	188.75	- 0.89	-2.91	9.6
Amirim	127.79	126.81	- 1.73	-2.09	24.4
Analyst Corporate Bonds	285.46	280.40	+ 0.62	-0.26	95.7
Analyst Money Market	155.88	155.43	+ 0.88	+2.51	17.0
Apex Tsua	138.97	138.96	+ 2.60	+4.05	22.5
Bloch Rotstein Bonds	164.58	162.17	+ 2.74	+3.81	10.0
Bond	162.45	161.29	+ 1.25	-0.17	12.6
Capital Bonds	151.16	150.06	+ 1.16	+1.52	11.5
Clali Company Debentures	205.54	204.96	- 0.01	+0.15	3.1
Clali Gen' Bond Rating	100.84	100.83	—	—	—
Clali Zmina	175.62	175.62	+ 1.40	+3.12	65.3
Dikla Mayan	1004.00	996.93	+ 0.84	+1.38	51.2
Dikla Magen Plus	101.08	101.08	+ 0.82	—	200.0
Dikla Maskoret Plus	143.51	143.51	+ 1.23	+3.14	291.4
Dikla Memad	449.49	445.83	+ 1.11	+3.07	20.8
Dikla Minvah	610.82	606.05	+ 0.07	-1.00	29.6
Dikla Mishor	563.85	559.75	- 0.22	+0.41	38.9
Dikla Nigvan	2032.88	2018.20	+ 1.16	+1.88	96.6
Dovrat Shrem Bonds	167.19	164.85	- 0.15	-0.94	62.7
Emda Dynamic	106.94	106.94	+ 0.94	+2.10	54.3
Emda Halamish	170.45	168.74	- 0.48	-1.26	19.6
Emda Hamgra	1128.30	1114.72	- 0.65	-1.16	54.1
Emda Shidut	100.33	100.33	+ 1.00	+2.98	406.2
Emda Zuk	331.08	329.44	- 1.55	-2.72	17.9
Epsilon Corp. Bonds	124.81	124.43	- 0.18	-0.77	16.7
Epsilon Money Market	147.96	147.69	+ 1.94	+3.85	170.4
Evergreen Shkpola	153.88	153.01	+ 0.60	+0.18	33.6
Excellence Bonds	2072.23	2045.49	+ 0.82	+0.99	12.3
Eyal Corporate Bonds	147.24	146.73	- 0.97	-2.42	8.7
Eyal Shotef	136.65	136.65	+ 1.26	+3.06	11.8
Guy	691.51	682.57	+ 1.62	-0.24	120.5
Hetz Pekan	595.54	595.54	+ 0.89	+2.77	612.4
I.B.I Shkalim	148.22	148.22	+ 1.20	+3.26	125.9
Ilanot Agas	437.54	434.22	- 0.14	-1.19	39.8
Ilanot Alon	1944.06	1929.47	+ 0.03	+0.11	42.8
Ilanot Amron	142.07	141.03	- 0.52	-0.97	24.1
Ilanot Conv'bonds	3084.69	3070.45	- 0.06	-1.34	7.8
Ilanot Eshet	770.36	764.59	+ 0.46	-0.20	99.1
Ilanot Etrog	1042.04	1036.55	- 0.16	-1.67	55.0
Ilanot Muvtahat	106.40	105.40	+ 1.24	+2.32	35.9
Ilanot Oren	4030.98	4010.03	+ 0.63	-0.39	139.9
Ilanot Orion	181.07	179.71	+ 0.29	+1.28	26.5
Ilanot Ramon	554.24	554.24	+ 1.18	+3.06	—
Ilanot Shahar	231.84	230.72	- 0.53	-0.62	39.4
Ilanot Shaked	237.92	236.21	- 0.29	-0.61	42.4
Ilanot Shkpola	165.37	164.47	+ 0.47	+1.15	86.5
Keshet Pekan	442.57	434.59	- 1.82	-3.12	48.3
Koor Dollar Index	200.80	200.11	- 0.22	+0.56	3.1
Lahak Magen 95%	155.31	155.31	+ 1.07	+2.42	152.6
Lahak Shaldag	233.67	233.67	- 0.52	-2.34	108.5
Lahak Yesoor	184.50	184.50	+ 0.89	+2.89	—
Malkarit Pekan	315.58	310.06	+ 1.58	-1.04	34.3
Meitav Corp. Conv. Bonds	146.84	146.69	+ 0.87	-0.38	9.8
Meitav Money Market	116.37	116.37	+ 1.16	+2.74	3.2
Mercazit Conv. Bonds	442.65	441.37	+ 1.39	-0.57	3.7
Models Shmera	107.88	106.83	+ 0.87	-0.97	16.8
Nessua Corporate Bonds	180.80	179.84	+ 0.42	-1.15	15.1
Otzar Shkalim	130.58	130.58	+ 1.01	+2.98	78.9
Pia Hallin	527.79	527.79	+ 1.13	+3.06	561.8
Pia Hagenet	104.93	104.93	+ 1.95	+2.81	81.7
Pia Ophir	590.28	587.06	+ 0.07	-0.28	104.0
Pia Or	1103.10	1087.22	+ 0.42	-0.49	122.1
Pia Segula	273.85	273.20	+ 0.

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	363	0
Africa Israel 0.1	26500	1.8
Africa Israel 1	229000	0.9
Agan	11980	0.1
Agis	2580	0
Al Paper Mills	13980	0
Al-Roy	2800	-4.3
Azorim	2990	-0.7
Azorim Prop.	695	-3.8
Bank Leumi 0.1	686	0.8
Beran	3000	-2.3
Bayside 1	42700	-4.7
Bayside 5	200100	-1.4
Bezeq	662	-0.8
Blue Square	3470	2
Bromine	3480	0.9
Clal Electronics	52000	-0.6
Clal Industries	1927	0.6
Clal Insurance	3390	-2.4
Clal Israel 1	104.3	-1.7
Clal Trade	0	0
Dan Hotels	690	0
Dankner	1800	-1.1
Delta	632	-2.2
Dead Sea Works 0.1	962	0.4
Delek 0.1	14150	-0.4
Delek Car	605	-1.2
Development Mort	25600	2.3
Discount Bank	402	-2
Discount Inv.	9440	-1.5
Elbit 0.003	1280	-0.8
Elbit Imaging	2690	2.5
Elbit system	4720	-1.5
Elco	2350	-0.9
Elco Industries	4450	-1.1
Electra	15710	0.3
Electra App	1797	-0.1
Elite Ind. 1	2100	-0.5
Elite Ind. 5	11030	-1
Elron 0.003	5970	-2.2
Fibi 5	67600	-2.4
First Int'l 1	54000	0
First Int'l 5	250400	-1.1
First Int'l Mort	55000	-0.4
Formula	12960	0.4
General Bank	11800	0
Granit Hacarmel	643	-0.8
Hadarim Prop.	8000	0
Ham-Let	2250	0
Hapoalim 0.1	916	0
Harel Mishmar 1	3400	-4.4
Harel Mishmar 5	15970	-1.4
I.D.B. Dev.	7780	-1
I.D.B. Holdings	7900	-1.8
I.D.C.	2110	0.9
Ind Bldgs	633	2.7
Israel Chemicals	447	-0.9
Israel Corp. 1	94000	-2.5
Isrotel	807	0
Jadora	809	0
JCT	31.5	-1.8
JEC	1937	1.4
Kitan	421	0
Knafaim	3800	-7.9
Koor	42400	-0.5
Leader	1388	-3.1
Leumi Insurance	202	-1.5
Leumi Mortgage	90900	0.8
Liraz	4340	-0.5
Makhteshim	2980	0
Maman	601	0
Melisb	3990	-0.3
Melisdrin	12950	-1
Mel Eden	1490	0
Mellisaron	1002	-3.3
Menorah Ins. 1	1500	-0.7
Mizmor	1601	0
Mishkan	54000	2.9
Mizrahi Inv.	10140	-3.1
NATSVA REGULAR	1344	5.5
Nice Systems	15800	0.1
Ocil	8370	0
Orbit	1790	0
Ormat Industries	497	0
Osem Industries	1808	1.8
Petrochemicals	2090	-2.4
Phoenix Ins. 1	5050	0
Poalim Inv.	12510	-0.7
Prop & Bldg	27200	-2.9
Saf Industries	1720	0.8
Solel Bone	4780	0
Supersol	1144	2.7
Tadiran	14600	-1.8
Tambour	700	-4
Telefonit	2057.00	-0.1
Tempo	1550	0
Teva	14800	-1.1
Urdan	280	-2.4
Wire and Cables	1282	0
Ytong Industries	915	0

KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Abec	2.6	0
Alrosa	3.68	-3.92
Ace-Spade	107.5	0
Ackerstein Bond B	180	0
Ackerstein Ind.	406	-2.7
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1359	0
Ackerstein Zvi 5	5586	5
adalom	36.5	0
Adamim	3546668	-5
Adler	120	0
Adsha	118	0
Adustrip	198.5	-0.3
Africa Hotels Bond B	87	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	44	-4.5
Africa Hotels Warrant 3	12	-44.8
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	1282	0
Alask Ind.	2345	0
Agis Warrant 3	48	0
Agis Warrant 4	606	-5.3
Agish Int'l	989	-1.1
Agri Investments	297	-0.3
Al-Ben	163	0
Al-Ben Bond A	110	0.5
Alfa o2	97.4	0
Alfa w8	135	-1.5
Alfa wo5	0	0
Alliance	731	0
Aloni	263	0
Alony-Hetz	486	-0.8
Alony-Hetz Bond A	228	0
Alrod	200	0
Alrod Warrant 1	10.8	0
Alrov Bond D	73	-0.3
Alrov Warrant 5	296	0
Alumr	1655	0
Alumit	8035	0.5
Amigar	185.5	-0.8
Amilec	309	-1.8
Ammeli Warrant 1	17	2.4
Amnet	573	0
Ampa Investments	118247	-0.8
Analyst EMS	1230	-6.1
Angel Trade	40.3	0
Angel Trade Bond A	148	0.3
Angel Trade Bond B	110.5	-0.5
Angel Trade Bond C	62.5	-0.8
Angel Trade Warrant 2	1.2	0
Apcon	960	-4.2
Apcon warrant 1	260	-8.8
Appilicom	2350	-0.4
Aracell Warrant 2	331	0
Arad	1918	-0.7
Arad Towels	963	0
Aradim	89	9.5
Aradim Bond 1	235	0
Argaman	261	0
Ariadan	1106	0
Arpal	550	-0.2
Aryt	114.5	-0.4
Ashtrolon Plywood	779	10
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	231	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	131	-1.1
Ashled	479	-0.2
Ashled Bond A	145	0
Ashot	508	-0.6
Ashot Bond A	164.5	0
Ashpara	86.5	0
Ashirom Bond 1	164.5	0
Ashirom Bond 2	150.5	0
Ashirom Ind.	544	0
Ashirom Prop.	229	-1.3
Astrom P Bond 1	89	-0.6
Astrom p warrant a	48.5	0
Astrum Bond C	91.5	0.5
Astrum Warrant 2	37.5	-1.1
Atilon	86.5	-0.6
Atmor	1851	0
ATX	140.5	0
ATX Bond A	149	0
Atzmon	296	-0.3
Aura	3820	-5.9
Avenir	378	0
Averol Bond A	153	0.3
Averbuch Formics	684	0.7
Avw	468	-1.1
Aviv Bond 1	148.5	0
Aviv Bond 2	87	0
Awner	1.9	0
Awrol Bond 2	86.5	0
Awrol Warrant 2	53	-3.6
Aydon	524	0
Azimuth	386	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	163.5	0
Azorim Warrant A	606	7.4
Azorim Warrant B	550	-16.4
Bedash Bond 1	48.9	-0.2
Bekol	257	-1.2
Belardine	357	-10.1
Belrontine Bond A	124.5	0
Belrontine Warrant 2	12.2	-15.3
Bairon	4422	-2
Beme'asal	88	0
Beme'asal Bond A	136.5	0
Ber	317	-8.9
Ber Bond A	116.5	0.4
Berad	290	0
Berenowez	784	-2
Berenowez Bond 1	0	0
Berkan	793	-1.2
Berool	128	0
Bertal	131.5	0
Besmel Moshe	163.5	0
BeySide Bond 2	85.1	0.9
BeySide Warrant D	2500	0
Biolt Shamesh	1430	3
Bolmen	370	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	170	0
Ben Yakar Bond B	68.5	-0.6
Ben Yakar Gal	4715	0
Ben Yakar Warrant 2	13.7	0
Berman	145	0
Blu	905	0
Blu Bond A	147.5	0
Bokal	504	0
Bin	268	0
Bokos Bond B	76	0
bokos gad warrant 1	58	-1.7
Bonsai Tichon	480	0
Bonjour	445	-9.4
Boulous Brothers	143.5	-4
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	250	0
Boulous GD	397	-2.7

	LAST	CHANGE*
Brand	94	0
Brill	67.5	0
Brok Side	40.3	10.1
Brosh	134.5	-0.4
Building Bank	2013	0
Building Recon	3015	-2.2
C Holdings	581	0
C Holdings Bond 5	104	0
C Holdings Warrant 3	21	0
Cassaroe 1	5411	-1.5
Cantel	3220	-2.2
Capital	686	1
Capital Bond A	117	0.4
Capsico	389	-1
Cargal	730	0
Carmel	535	0
Carmiel	498	0
Casiro	611	-0.5
Catalera 1	547	0
CDI	195	0
Cementical	865	-1
Centre	107	0
Centre Bond 1	132	0
Chum	488	-2.1
Cheyun Computers	120	-0.4
Chemipol	405	0
Chim-Nir	462	0.4
CI Systems	222	-4.3
Cidab	201	0
Clal Computer Warrant 3	700	0
Clal Computers	14850	3.1
Clal Industries Bond	198	0
Clal Israel 5	475	0
Clal Retail	58098	0
Cohen Beni	203	1.8
Cohen Dev.	295	-3.9
Cohen MM	1895	0
Cold Storage 1	1530	-9.9
Cold Storage 5	8300	0
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	245	0
Compl	220	1.4
Compl Warrant 1	19.5	-1
Compulsa	189	0
Comtech	384	6
Constrans	885	0
Contal	844	0.5
Contractors	20047	0
Coral Beach	802	-2.7
Credit Line	3.5	0
Credit Lines Bond A	82.6	0
Cyclone 1	1970	0
Cyclone Bond 1	240	0
Cyclone Bond 2	145	0
Datron	1584	7
Datron Bond 1	239	0
Dalin	3	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	714	-5
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	157	-1.9
Danber 1	3980	0
Danber 5	17100	-1.2
Danber Bond A	283	0
Danber Resources	6854	2.5
Danber Resources Bond B	158.5	-0.6
Danber Tech.	6519	0
Danber Technologies Bond A	154.5	0
Danel	58	-0.9
Danel Bond A	90.5	0
Danel Personnel	2600	-7.9
Danel Warrant 2	550	0
Dankner Bond 1	1395.5	0
Dankner Bond 2	1385.5	-0.4
Dankner Bond 3	86.8	-0.2
Dankner Warrant C	301	0
Dankner Warrant D	34.7	0
Darby	688	-10
Dasad	100.5	0
DARBAN BOND 2	97.4	0
Darban Bond A	218	0
DARBAN W2	133	0
Darban Warrant 3	138	2.2
Daroi	132	-1.1
Darlon	119	0
Dash Investment	832	-1
Data	518	0
Decision Systems	468	-0.2
Degani Systems	505	2
Delek Drillings	8.1	0
Delek Oil	1490	0
Delta 1	2830	-2.7
Delta 3	7870	-0.1
Destiny	1152	-2
Digal	151	0
Dimon1	1723	-0.2
Discount 01	0	0
Dolav	388	-4.4
Dolav Bond A	137.5	0
Dolav warrant 1	58	0
Domicar	430	0
Domicar Bond	148.5	0.3
Dor Chim	400	0
Dorc w1	129	0
Dorea	57.5	0
Dorl o1	92.5	-0.9
Dorl Engineering	480	0
Dorl Engineering Bond A	131	0
Dovrat Bond A	1305	-0.5
Dovrat Shrem	1270	-2.4
Dovrat Shrem Warrant 3	99	-13.5
DS	1318	7
Dubek M	2.2	0
Dubek S	2.3	4.5
Dunitz	399	0
DYG Industries	503	0
E & M Computing	1162	0
Edgar Alsani	110	-1.8
Edgar Industries	172	0
Edgar Inv. Bond C	78	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 4	0	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 6	25.4	-1.9
Efter Bond A	98	0
Elni	225	0
Elsam	389	0
El Bad	1670	0.2
El Canit	737	-0.3
El Canit Bond 1	180.5	0
Elad	528	0
Elad Bond A	185	0
Elad Bond B	136.5	0
Elad o3	70	0
Elad w5	56.5	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	120.9	-0.1
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	698	2.5
Elden Tech.	177.5	-1.4
Electronics Line	524	4.8
Elgar	4704	-0.5
Elichav	355	0
Elitech Ind.	869	-4.4
Elsam	380	-2.8
Ella	451	0
Ella Bond A	142.5	0
Elran	3447	0
Elron Warrant 2	2273	-5.3
Emek	127	0
Emylo	545	-1.8
Engel Const.	722	-10
ERE	2016	0
Eshed Robotech	228	-0.4
Even	383	-1.1
Evergreen	3133	-1
Excellence	2012	0
Export Inv.	811	-1.7
Extel	148	-1.3
Feldman	173	0
Feldman Bond A	143.5	0
Feldman Inv.	198.5	0
Feldman Warrant 3	19	-5
Fertilizers 1	126	3.2
Feuchtwanger 1	10280	0
Feuchtwanger 5	48000	-0.6
Fidelity	2648	0
Five J Jewelers	298	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	121	0
Formica Source	198	0
Frutstown	351	1.7
Gahalet	16750	-5.1
Galcom	296	0
Galran	1238	0.2
Game	215	0.5
Gamatronic	579	-1
Gamtsit	1312	-4
Gan Shmuel Bond A	106.5	0
Gan Shmuel Warrant 3	365	-1.4
Gan Shmuel	1262	-2.5
Ganel Hadar	423	0
Gap Development	112.5	-0.4
Gap Holdings	302	-1
Gap Warrant 2	17.7	-1.1
Gazit	666	-1
Gazit Bond B	145.5	0.4
Gazit Bond C	115.5	0.4
Gazit Warrant 4	9	0
Gibor Bond 1	85	0
Gibor Bond A	89	0
Gibor Sabrina	82	0
Gibor Sport	760	0
Gibor Warrant 2	105	0
Gilbos	137	0
Gilo	134	0
Giltek	1353	-0.2
Ginot Citrus Oil	715	0
Glob Fit	835	-0.2
Golan	575	-2
Gold	448	0
Golden House	349	0
Golden House Bond 1	237	0
Goltex	150	0
Granit Bond	139.5	0
Granit Bond 2	140.8	-0.5
Green Software	447	0
Greenberg	800	-5.2
H. Electronics	85.5	5.9
H. Mor	925	-2
Habas	3215	-2
Habas Bond 1	127.5	0.4
Hadar 1	22198	-6
Hadar 5	71884	-1.7
Hadar Ins. 1	715	0
Hadar Ins. 5	3513	-1.3
Hadarim Bond1.	107	0.7
Hadarim Warrant1	1620	0
Hagal	375	-1.3
Hagal Bond B	152	0.7
Hamakor	361	0
Hanal	7	-1.4
Harel Bond A	417	0.2
Hasfin Esh	632	0
Hason	182.5	0
Hatehol 1	215	0
Hatehol Bond A	140	0
Had Acri Music	362	-1.1
Hiron 1	11150	-0.5
Hiron 5	41778	-9.5
HL Service Bond 2	175.5	0
HL Service Bond 3	146.5	-4.9
HL Services	2061	-2
Hod	151	-2.8
Hof	668	0
Hofit	127	0
Hydrofloe	156.5	0
IES Industries	571	0
IES Warrant 1	97.5	0
Ilan Gal	193	-1
Ilan Gal Bond A	141	0
ILDC Bond 6	247	0
ILDC Hotels	340	2.4
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	159.5	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	66	0
ILDC Insurance	384	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	126	0
Imco	1271	-0.8
Ind Bld Warrant 9	69.7	-0.1
Ind Bldgs Rt	37	-5.1
Ind.Dev.Bank C	270	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	2700	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	2700	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1590	0.3
Independence Mort	100859	-0.7
Interconsma	745	0
Intergamma 1	4071	-1.5
Intergamma 5	15903	0
Isracard	1534	-5.6
Isrotel	5780	-0.5

	LAST	CHANGE*
Isracolor	486	-4.6
Israel Corp. 5	103000	0
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	130.5	-0.4
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	170.5	-0.9
Israsim	1314	-3
Israsim Bond B	247	0
Israsim Bond C	88	0
Israsim Warrant 3	0	0
Isramco	3.4	-2.9
Issta 1	5602	0
Issta 5	25968	0
Issta Bond A	242	0
ISTA LINES	2323	0
Jakora Bond A	180	0
Jaycotr	169	-0.3
Jaycour Bond A	103.5	0
JEC Bond B	97.6	-0.2
JEC Warrant 3	0	0
Jerusalem Mort	200	-2.5
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	158	0
Jeunesse	30.2	0
JOEL	106	-5.2
JOEL Bond 1A	225	0
JOEL Bond 2	118	0
JOEL Bond A	225	0
JOEL Warrant 3	3.5	0
Kadimast	164.5	0
Kadouri	309	0
kalrica bond b	84	-0.6
kalrica warrant 1	80.5	0
Kalnit	1296	-1
Kalkalit Bond A	94.2	-0.2
Kalkalit warrant 2	303	1
Kamour	819	0
Kamour Bond G	128	-0.4
Kamour Warrant H	0	0
Kamsept	1105	-6.8
Kacal Warrant G	1.3	0
Kanlord	95.1	0
Kardor Bond A	44.7	-1.1
Kardan 1	430	0
Kardan 5	2020	2
Katz	128	0
Katz Bond A	64	0
Kadem Chemicals	3829	4.5
Kadem Chemicals Bond 2	227	0
Kenitex	358	0
Kesher	814	0
Kesher Bond A	144	0
Keter	824	0
Kinol	16.9	-0.6
Kinol Bond A	30.8	-4.1
Klog	392	-0.3
Kinneret	209	3
Klach Kirur	177	6
Kishrei Teuta	1074	1
Kitel	550	1.7
Klasi Bond A	151	0
Klasi Bond A	109	0
Klasi Warrant 1	8.5	0
Klil Ind. 5	8200	-4.9
Koor Bond 5	150	-1
Kopel	227	0
Kopel Bond 1	209	0
La Nationale Bond A	147.5	1
La Nationale Pref	98.5	4.8
Lachish	4131	-10
Lamont	871	1
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1.8	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	70.5	0
Lasava	456	-3.8
Lavlav	602	-1
Lazmick Bldg	495	0
Lazmick Comm Ctrs	145	-2
Lazmick Commercial Centres Bon	121	0
Lazmick Ind Bldgs	347	0
Lazmick Industrial Bldgs. Bond	199	0
Leader Warrant B	107.5	-18.9
Lugo	420	-3
Leumi Mortgage Bond 154	0	0
Leumi R4	81.7	0.5
Lewenthal	318	0
Levi	585	-2.9
Levi Bond A	130.5	0
Levi Bond B	81	-0.6
Levi Warrant 2	72.5	0
Levinstein Bond A	82	0
Levinstein Warrant 2	361	-8.2
Levinstein	1092	0.5
Liber	433	-0.9
Lidan	1401	8.8
Lilishir 1	173.5	-1.4
Lilishir 5	705	2
Ligad	731	0
Ligad Bond 1	151	1
Lighterage 1	450	2.3
LIMS	255	0
Lipman	2754	1
Lipsid	2899	0
Lipsid Bond A	164.5	0
Liraz Bond A	181	-0.4
Lodan	201	-2.4
Lodzia 1	1356	0
Lodzia 4	4603	0
Luhot Gadi	92	0
Luhot Gadi Bond 1	140	0
Lumir	3614	-2
Ma'ariv	2480	2.8
Ma'ariv Bond A	128.1	0
Maabarot	1395	-1
Maagal	1120	1.8
Maagal Bond A	131.2	0
Maagal Bond B	119	-0.8
Maagal Bond C	75.5	0.5
Maagal Warrant 3	150	0
Maif	950	0
Magara	170	-5
Magara Bond A	174	0
Magara Bond B	121.5	0
Magav	358	-1.1
Magav Warrant 1	757	-1.9
Magna	55	-2.7
Magnet Warrant 1	1.7	0
Magor 1	2107	0
Magor 5	9217	-0.8
Magor hldgs. Bond B	83	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	664	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant A	22.3	0
Maiel	357	0
Maial Bond A	0	0
Mail	68.5	-2.1
Malibu 1	814	-4.7
Malibu 5	3900	-2.6
Malibu Bond B	157	-1.1
Malta	571	-2
Man	126	0
Man Bond A	227	0
Manur	49.1	0
Marathon	112	-7.1
Marathon insured	118	-1.6
Mario Lazmick Constr. Bond 1	157	0
Mario Lazmick Constr. Bond 2	140.5	0
Maritime Bank	1823	1
Maritime Bank Bond A	184	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	135	0
Maritime Bank Warrant 6	0	0
Mashav	225	-2
Mashbir	828	0
Mashov	512	3.7
Mashov	116	-0.9
Mashov Marketing Warrant 1	5.6	10
Matam	1289	0
Matav Warrant 1	506	-3.8
Maxima 1	395	-0.3
Maxima 5	1405	-9.5
Mecpak	614	0
Med. Hotels	102	-1.9
Medtechnics	880	-4.3
Medtechnics Bond A	126.5	-0.4
Medtechnics Bond B	76.5	-0.6
Medtechnics Warrant 2	222	-2.7
Medtechnics Warrant 3	1	-72.2
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	114.5	-0.4
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	421	0
Mekorot	2380	-2.1
Melr Ezra Bond B	235	0
Melet	434	0
Mellisaron Bond B	0	0
Mellisaron Bond B	84.2	0.1
Mellisaron Warrant 3	50	13.4
Mendelson	244	0
Menorah	67	0
Menorah Ins. 5	6700	0
Morezzit	572	0
Morezzit Warrant 2	82	0.8
Merhav	184	1.1
Meytav	482	0
Middle East Tube	402	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	104.5	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	28.8	0
Milmor Bond A	151	0
Milmor Bond B	79	-0.8
Milmor Warrant 2	268	0
Mimstar	134	0.4
Mini Line	475	-0.4
Minrav	14253	-0.8
Mirage	212	-0.9
Mirage Bond A	128	0
Mirage Warrant 1	36	-12.5
Mirom	60	0
Mishmarot	19	0
Mishmarot Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	154.5	9.6
Mishor Hahol	360	-2.5
Misgrani	139	0
Mivtach Shamir	2810	0
Mivtach Shamir	1125	0
MM Engineering	183	-0.6
MM Engineering Bond A	115.5	0
MM Engineering Warrant 2	0	0
Modgar	732	-0.9
Modtrin	2.2	0
Moffet	206	0.5
Moffet Convertible Bond AAA	270	-0.7
Molett	651	0
More Plastic Ind.	339	0
Moshkovitz	181.5	1.1
Moshkovitz Warrant 2	0	0
MTI Computers	483	-2.4
Mul-T-Lock	937	0.2
Muls Sachar	243	-10
Nachshon Fund	51.5	-1.9
Naphtha	44.6	-0.9
Naphtha Oil Exp.	25	0
Natour	561	0
NATSVA BOND A	93.4	-0.2
Navigator	269	1.4
Navigator Property	481	-0.4
Nechushtan Bond B	75.5	-0.7
Nechushtan Prop.	190	-5
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	128	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	28.7	9.9
Negav Ceramics	186.5	-0.3
Nehushtan 1	775	-2
Nehushtan 5	3016	-1.2
Neot Aviv	7841	-1
Nessus	510	-1.9
Neve Arbel	83	0
Nevim Hotels	407	0
Nevlot	815	0
Nia	376	0
Nilaw	1444	4.4
Nisco	1733	0
Nissan	286	0
NMC	287	0
Noga	1575	0
Noga Income	94.5	1.1
Norstyn	12	0.8
Norzan Tech.	373	0
Norfolk	730	0
Norfolk Bond A	139	0
Nur	63	0
NYP	809	-0.8
Oceana	2460	0
Ocil Bond A	178.7	0
Ocil Bond B	174.5	0
Ocil Bond C	83.2	-2.2
Ocil Warrant 2	1000	-14.9
Ocsova	797	0
Olek	191	0
Olier Bro	6830	5.8
Olitis	502	0
Ogden	61	0
Ofrattav	743	0
Oil Fields	1.2	0
Old-Dok	230	7.5

	LAST	CHANGE*
Omni	356	0
Omnitech	340	-0.4
Ophir	486	-1.4
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optema	105	1
Orasys	3619	0
Orazil	373	0
Orazil Bond A	154.5	0
Orda	3841	-4.8
Orda Bond 1	180.5	-0.3
Orer	441	-0.9
Orsis	154.5	0.7
Ortas	469	1.5
Ortas Bond A	88.5	0
Ortas Warrant 2	100	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	123.2	0.9
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	140	6.2
Orsal	276	-1.1
Otzar Hashilton	18300	-0.3
Oz	240	0
Oz slide	470	-2.5
Packer Steel	5200	3.2
Pallough	441	-5.2
Pama	648	-2
Pamas	2201	-1.3
Pan Dor	294	0
Pardes	892	-0.4
Pardes Bond A	95	-1
Passport	3007	0
Paz Chen	394	0
PCB	1475	-5.1
PCB Warrant 3	0	0
Pden Investment	60.5	0
Pereg	125	0
Perdelse	1169	-0.2
Phoenix Ins. 5	18590	0
Pica Plast	472	-9.8
Pinros	133	2.7
Pinros Bond A	136.5	0
Pitdot	337	0
Plason bond a	94.5	-0.5
Plason warrant 1	386	0
Plassom	3800	0
Plasto Sac	685	0.9
Plasto Shack Bond A	85	-0.6
Plasto Shack Warrant 2	123.5	0
Plasto Shack Warrant 3	9.3	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	88.5	0
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2900	0
Poalim Investments Bond A	127	0
Point of Sale	5120	-5.5
Polak	343	0
Polgat A	230	0
Polgat B 4	860	0
Polgat Bond B	168.2	-0.5
Polygon	307	-2
Polygon Bond 2	208	0
Poraz	285	-1.9
Poraz Warrant 1	86.5	0
Port	73.5	0
Posadon	109.9	0
Pri Haemek	22

Discount leads decline on TASE

Tel Aviv

Stocks on the TASE dropped yesterday, led by Israel Discount Bank Ltd. after it said fourth-quarter net income sank due to lower earnings from lending and higher provisions for bad loans. Israel Discount Bank, the country's third-largest bank by assets, fell 1.95 percent.

The decline helped the Maof Index of 25 largest companies drop 0.55% to 308.38.

Israel Discount Bank's fourth-quarter net fell 48% to NIS 7.1 million, or NIS 0.07 a share, from NIS 13.6m., or NIS 0.14 a share, in the same period a year earlier. While the earnings were in line with expectations, said Idan Azoulay, a portfolio manager at Impact Igud Portfolio Management Ltd., they focused attention on the bank's difficulties.

"There are a lot of problems with the bank," Azoulay said. "Whoever buys it won't have an easy life, particularly when it comes to the bank's workers."

Speculation an investor is seeking to control the bank had pushed up Discount Bank shares almost 20% in the past two and a half weeks.

Other banks were mixed yesterday. Bank Hapoalim closed unchanged; First International Bank Issue 5 shares fell 1.07%, and Bank Leumi Le-Israel, the country's second-largest bank, rose 0.76%. The government said it plans to raise NIS 450m. by selling 3% of Bank Leumi in the form of convertible bonds to institutional investors in Israel and abroad.

The Tel Aviv-100 Index of largest companies based on market share fell 0.56% to 296.64. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 193.9m. worth of shares changed hands, NIS 26.7m. above yesterday's level. About three times as many shares fell as rose.

Decliners included Clal Insurance, which lost 2.31%. The insurer reported yesterday after the market closed that fourth-quarter net income sank 97% to NIS 828,000.

Bezeq Ltd. fell 0.94%; Koor Industries Ltd., the country's largest industrial exporter, fell 0.47%, and Clal Israel Ltd. fell 1.70%.

Gaining shares included Africa-Israel Investments Ltd. Series 0.1 Shares, which gained 1.59%. The real-estate developer said yesterday fourth-quarter profit tripled on growth in its construction and property rental activities.

Europe

UK stocks gained yesterday as fund managers, flush with cash from recent share buy-backs, saw better opportunities in London than the rest of Europe. Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. and Britannic Assurance Plc. helped to lead the gains after reporting better-than-expected earnings.

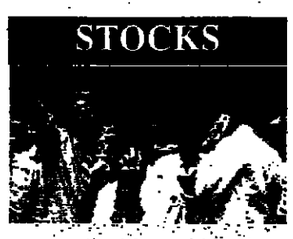
"The UK is actually cheap in terms of price-earnings ratios compared with Europe," said Mark Gardner, a fund advisor to Julius Baer Investments Ltd., which manages about $41 billion worldwide. "It's a very good restructuring story."

The benchmark FTSE 100 Index rose 21.8 points, or 0.37 percent, to 5968.8, with P&O gaining 35.5 pence to 891.5. The broader FTSE 250 declined 2.6 points to 5522.9, as Britannic's gains were offset by sliding engineering stocks, which were depressed by a strong pound.

Pilkington Plc. slid 3.5 p to 121.5 and TI Group Plc. dropped 12.5p to 513.5. Britannic rose 47.5p to 1360 after the life insurer said 1997 operating earnings per share rose to 72p from 29.7p a year ago.

"Britannic results were better than expected, which boosted other insurers," said Nat Jolowicz, divisional director at Quilter & Co., which has £3b. under management.

Among other insurance companies, Legal & General Group Plc. rose 18.5p to 741.5, while Norwich Union Plc. advanced 14p to 480. P&O gained after the ferry and cruise operator said second-half profit rose 58% on growth in all of its divisions.



Maof 308.38 ▼ 0.55%
Dow Jones 8904 ▲ 1%
FTSE 5968.8 ▲ 0.37%
Nikkei 16606.39 ▼ 1.56%

Asia

Japanese stocks fell, led by banks such as Sumitomo Bank Ltd., on pessimism domestic demand will remain sluggish after Japan's ruling party decided not to include personal income tax cuts in a new economic package. The package, the fifth since November aimed at rousing the country's dormant economy, is expected to contain more than 10 trillion yen ($76.5 billion) in public-works spending when released later this week.

"The government ruled out the one thing everybody in the market was hoping for," said Norio Shimura, a manager at Chuo Securities Co.'s equity department. "We're seeing selling across the board by some pretty disappointed investors."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index fell 262.44 points, or 1.56 percent, to 16,606.39, after rising for three days. The Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange dropped 11.48 points, or 0.92%, to 1239.01.

Sumitomo Bank fell 60 yen to 1,330, Fuji Bank Ltd. slid 49 yen to 871 and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd. dropped 30 yen to 1,670 on concern sluggish demand will place a heavier burden on Japan's fragile financial industry.

"Anything that pours cold water on hopes for economic recovery is going to hurt banks," said Akira Yamada, chief dealer of Kyokuto Securities Co.'s Osaka equity and futures division.

Mitsui Trust & Banking Co. dropped 16 yen to 365 and Yasuda Trust & Banking Co. fell 10 yen to 226 on news Moody's Investors Service cut both institutions' long-term credit ratings to Baa3, one notch above junk status.

Trading was an estimated 476 million shares, up from 361 million the same time yesterday. Decliners outnumbered gainers by 778 to 353. Steelmakers, Builders, Exporters Steelmakers and other industries dependent on a strong domestic economy also stumbled after Liberal Democratic Party leaders said an income tax cut isn't needed to avert a recession.

Nippon Steel Corp. fell 5 yen to 226. NKK Corp. dropped 6 yen to 140. Kawasaki Steel Corp. slipped 6 yen to 206. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

Stocks ended just shy of record territory yesterday, after the Dow Jones industrial average resumed its jagged ascent toward the 9,000 mark. On Wall Street, the Dow rose 88.19 points – or 1 percent – to close at 8,904.44, taking back nearly all of the 90.18 points it gave up on Monday. The index of blue chip stocks set its last record on Friday, when it ended the week up 300 points to close at 8,906.43. (AP)

Yen stable despite concern Japan may sell dollars

The dollar was little changed against the yen yesterday as Japanese officials kept alive concern that Japan may sell dollars to bolster the weakening Japanese currency.

This concern offset expectations the Japanese government won't spur its sluggish economy with decisive measures, traders said, and they expect the yen's decline to resume once talk of dollar-selling subsides.

The yen has fallen 5 percent against the dollar in the last six weeks.

"There's concern Japan will intervene," said Stephen Flanagan, chief trader at Erste Bank. "The market doesn't want to push the yen weaker right now."

The dollar slipped to 130.35 yen from 130.45 yen in late New York trading yesterday. It rose against the mark to 1.8297 marks from 1.8252 marks.

Eisuke Sakakibara, vice finance minister for international affairs, said Japan is consulting with the US on foreign exchange rates, *Nikkei English News* reported. Haruhiko Kuroda, another top finance official, said the yen was too weak and suggested Japan will sell dollars to boost the yen.

Traders speculated the Bank of Japan sold dollars on Friday once the dollar rose above 131 yen. The dollar was supported because the yen amid expectations that Japan's next economy-boosting package, due to be unveiled Thursday, won't include income tax cuts. Without a tax cut, which many analysts and traders say is necessary to jolt the economy out of the doldrums, the dollar will probably climb higher, traders say.

"An unexpectedly aggressive package would strengthen the yen," said John McCarthy, manager of foreign exchange at ING Baring Capital Markets. "But history shows there's little reason to expect an aggressive and novel approach to solving problems."

The Bank of Japan's new governor, Masaru Hayami, said he wants "renewed trust" in the Japanese currency.

"The yen was sold because the government didn't take measures for the financial system and administrative reform," Hayami said in an interview with Tokyo-based reporters. "Now, the government has taken visible steps, and I hope this will help bring renewed trust in the yen."

Hayami, on Friday replaced Yasuo Matsushita, who stepped down to take the blame for the arrest of a bank official suspected of accepting bribes in return for information on monetary policy. (Bloomberg)



Dollar 3.603 ▲ 0.22%
Basket 3.8436 ▲ 0.29%
Mark 1.9654 ▼ 0.22%
Sterling 6.022 ▼ 0.13%

Gold breaks $300; oil stabilizes

Precious metals

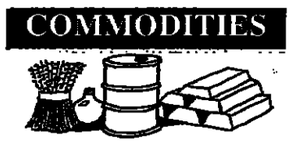
Gold rose yesterday on optimism that the European central bank will hold as much as 30 percent of its reserves in gold, much higher than most expectations. The optimism was fueled by comments from Bank of Italy Governor Antonio Fazio, who indicated during a meeting of European finance ministers last weekend that gold's share in the ECB's reserves could be the same or more than Italy's current 27%, according to commodities brokerage GNI Ltd. Most analysts expect the percentage to be between 5% and 20%.

Gold for immediate delivery rose $3.70 to $301.45 an ounce in interbank trading.

Palladium rose amid concern the firing of the Russian cabinet will further delay shipments of the precious metal. Russia, the world's largest supplier of palladium, has not shipped any palladium or platinum so far this year because of the government's failure to grant export licenses. The former first deputy prime minister Anatoly Chubais, who last week pledged export quotas would be granted by the end of March, was among those dismissed by President Boris Yeltsin.

Palladium for immediate delivery rose $8 to $294.50 an ounce.

Copper fell as a report showed a slump in Japanese consumer spending, the latest sign that demand is weak in the world's second-largest copper consumer. Japan's nationwide department store sales slid 6.6% in February from the same month a year earlier. Sales of household appliances and furniture declined 9.9% in an indication of likely sagging demand for copper, which is extensively used for wiring and piping in consumer products. A 0.7% gain in London Metal Exchange-registered copper stockpiles also helped push prices lower. Copper for delivery in three months fell $21 to $1,774 a metric ton on the LME.



Gold $300.25 ▲ 2.5%
Crude Oil $14.85 ▼ 1.9%
CRB 231.23 ▼ 0.31%

Oil

Brent crude oil fell amid traders' skepticism that the 12 countries who pledged to cut back production by a total of 1.375 million barrels a day will honor those commitments and that it will be enough of reduce a glut in supplies.

The decision by producers to cut output in an attempt to revive oil prices pushed the May contract 13.8 percent higher on Monday, the largest one-day gain for a contract closest to expiration in eight years.

The agreement has since prompted seven more OPEC members and two countries outside OPEC to pledge cutbacks too. May Brent crude futures trading on London's International Petroleum Exchange fell 25 cents to $14.79 a barrel.

Others

White sugar fell yesterday amid concern supplies of refined sugar from the European Union will exceed demand this year. EU sugar output is expected to rise to a record 19 million tons in the year ending September 30 after ideal growing conditions for the beet crop last summer.

While supplies of EU sugar are ample, demand for refined sugar has fallen in the EU's traditional markets like Saudi Arabia, which are now importing more raw sugar to process in their own refineries.

White sugar for May. delivery, fell $1.60, or 0.6 percent, to $270 a ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange. (Bloomberg)

US bonds little changed before Treasury note sales

US bonds were little changed for a second day, as investors turned their attention to this week's sale of $25 billion of two- and five-year Treasury notes.

"There will be a lot of talk about the auctions," said Matthew Alexy, a bond strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston. Investors are likely to snap up the new securities, in part because they're becoming more scarce as the government works to balance the federal budget, he said.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 1/8, or $1.25 per $1,000 bond, raising its yield 1 basis point to 5.87 percent. The two-year note's yield also was steady at 5.52%.

Treasury securities barely budged in overseas trading as concern ebbed that rising oil prices will quicken inflation. US crude oil for May delivery fell 1.3% in Asia to $16.29 a barrel, after rising more than 13% yesterday on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil prices still are down more than 20 percent since November. "It still looks like we are in a low-growth, low-inflation environment this year," said Andrew Milligan, senior economic adviser at GA Investment Management in London. "The rebound in oil prices does very little indeed to change that."

The US consumer price index rose at an annual pace of 1.6% in the 12 months ended February.

The Treasury today will sell $14 billion of two-year notes in the first part of its monthly note auction, $1 billion less than last month and almost $5.88 billion less than the maturing notes. In addition to closing the federal budget gap, the government's borrowing needs are shrinking as the robust economy generates strong tax revenue. About $11 billion in five-year Treasury notes are slated for auction tomorrow.

To be sure, Treasury securities may decline before the government auctions as Wall Street firms drive yields higher to drum up demand, a typical practice when new securities are sold, some analysts said.

In the corporate bond market, Bear Stearns Cos. is selling $500 million of five-year global notes today, as First Tennessee Bank and Premier Parks Inc. gear up to sell a combined $800 million of bonds by week's end.

Securities issued by companies performed well recently, even though investors have had a record amount of new bonds to choose from. Some $170 billion of new debt has been issued – about 60% more than last year, according to Securities Data Co. (Bloomberg)



US 30-year T-bill yield
5.87 ▲ 0.125

LONDON

Allied Domecq	567	+1
BAT Inds	638	+17.5
BT	656	+25.5
BTR	198	-0
Barclays	1784	-3
Bass	1145	+39
Boots	918	+10
British Airways	604.5	+4
Diageo	725	+14
General Electric	469	+20
Glaxo	1605	+0
Halifax	934.5	-1
HSBC (75p shs)	1934	+28
ICI	1060	-5
Land Securities	1091	-6
Lloyds Bank	960	+16
Marks & Spencer	600	+16
NatWest Bank	1122	-5
Prudential	950	+14.5
Reuters	646	+6.5
Sainsbury	510	+18
Shell Transport	452.5	+1.25
Unilever	572	+1.5

PARIS

Accor	1450	+80
Air Liquide	1063	+13
Alcatel Alsthom	1070	+10
Euro Disney	10.05	-0.1
Michelin B	358.4	+4.3
Moulinex	157.1	-0.9
Paribas	613	+21
Pernod Ricard	432	-4
Peugeot	973	-1
Saint Gobain	980	+20

FRANKFURT

Bayer	83.5	+1.75
Daimler-Benz	170.8	+2.3
Lufthansa	37.6	-0.3
Mannesmann	1328	+68
Metallgesellschaft	38.95	+0.1
Volkswagen	1420	-28

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 24-MAR-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sel (Basket) (1)	3.8356	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.595	0
British Pound (1)	6.0225	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	1.9654	0
French Franc (1)	0.5866	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.719	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.4128	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5283	0
Italian Lira (1000)	1.9959	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.069	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	8908.42	+82.17
DJ Transport	3532.46	+25.52
DJ Utils	287.91	+0.51
DJ Comp	2875.57	+23.3
NYSE Industr	709.16	+4.85
NYSE Transport	517.82	+1.75
NYSE Comp	574.87	+4.43
S&P 100	527.56	+5.36
S&P Spot Index	1105.4	+9.66

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5983.7	+36.7
Tokyo Nikkei	16606.3	-262.5
Singapore all-share Index	432.91	+1.22
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	11945.4	+51.1
Israel Index	232.87	+2.66
Paris CAC 40	3738.54	+58.41
DAX	4971.32	-30.23
Madrid	861.6	+11.52
Swiss Market Index	7407.4	+55.4
Sydney	2782	+12.7
Milan	1443.61	+18.97

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.675	-0.0024
Jun.future (CME)	1.6864	-0.0022
D-mark: spot	1.8282	+0.0026
Jun.future (CME)	0.5497	-0.0007
S-franc: spot	1.4903	+0.0021
Jun.future (CME)	0.6779	-0.0016
Yen: spot	130.27	-0.09
Jun.future (CME)	0.007763	+9e-006
CanDlr: spot	1.4155	-0.0017
Jun.future (CME)	0.7069	+0.0009
AusDlr: spot	0.6715	+0.0005
Jun.future (CME)	0.6725	+0.0021
F-franc: spot	5.127	+0.01
It Lire: spot	1799.5	+1.8
Nig: spot	2.0601	+0.0033
AusShlg: spot	12.8557	+0.0135
Rand: spot	4.98	-0.0005
ECU: spot	1.086	-0.0028

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (CEC)	1649	-34
Coffee (May) (CEC)	146.25	-1.7
Wheat (May) (CBOT)	331.25	-1
Soybean (May) (CBOT)	851.5	-0
Sugar (May) (CEC)	9.93	+0.1
Orange juice (May)(CEC)	108.7	+0.15
Bonds Jun.future	121.156	-0
S and P Jun.future	1116.5	+8.2

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (LCE)	1077	-14
Coffee (May) (LCE)	1730	-10
Brent crude oil (Apr)(IPE)	-	-

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	5.42	-0.04

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Apr)	298.9	+0.4
Silver (May)	6.395	-0.045
Platinum (Apr)	415.4	-6.4
Palladium (Jun)	274.45	0
High-grade copper (May)	0.801	-0.0155

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	298.85	+6.05
Gold PM fix	300.3	+7.3
Silver fix	5.46	+13.8

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 22:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 24-MAR-98)

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E-Mail : meiras@treadline.co.il
Contact : Elan Levi

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.98)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.710	4.710	4.910
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.540	5.530	5.590
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.020	2.110	2.500
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (24.3.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.8056	3.8670	—	—	3.8358
U.S. dollar	3.5667	3.6243	3.50	3.66	3.5950
German mark	1.9500	1.9815	1.91	2.01	1.9654
Pound sterling	5.9768	6.0733	5.87	6.16	6.0225
French franc	0.5817	0.5911	0.57	0.60	0.5866
Japanese yen (100)	2.7347	2.7789	2.68	2.82	2.7582
Dutch florin	1.7299	1.7579	1.70	1.79	1.7443
Swiss franc	2.3916	2.4302	2.35	2.47	2.4128
Swedish krona	0.4498	0.4571	0.44	0.47	0.4535
Norwegian krone	0.4721	0.4798	0.46	0.49	0.4755
Danish krone	0.5116	0.5199	0.50	0.53	0.5157
Finnish mark	0.6426	0.6532	0.63	0.67	0.6482
Canadian dollar	2.5131	2.5537	2.47	2.59	2.5283
Australian dollar	2.3881	2.4267	2.34	2.47	2.4092
S. African rand	0.7165	0.7281	0.65	0.73	0.7223
Belgian franc (10)	0.9453	0.9606	0.92	0.96	0.9533
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7716	2.8164	2.72	2.86	2.7936
Italian lira (1000)	1.9798	2.0118	1.94	2.04	1.9959
Jordanian dinar	5.0200	5.1010	4.95	5.29	5.0690
Egyptian pound	1.0100	1.1000	1.01	1.10	1.0695
ECU	3.8744	3.9369	—	—	3.9060
Irish punt	4.9014	4.9805	4.81	5.05	4.9359
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2993	2.3364	2.25	2.37	2.3173

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Bar-Ilan, 29 Bar-Ilan, Ra'anana, 744-3579.

Netanya: Rafa-El, 14 Stamper, 833-1107.

Haifa: Hadas, 53 Horev, 826-2673.

Krayot area: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 1 Moshe Goshen, Kiryat Motzkin, 871-7063.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

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Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).

Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE	100
FIRE	102
FIRST AID	101
Magen David Adom	

In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod* 8551333 Kfar Saba* 9902222
Ashkelon 6551332 Netanya* 9912333
Beersheba* 6274767 Netanya* 8604444
Beit Shemesh 6523133 Petah Tikva* 9311111
Dan Region* 5793333 Rehovot* 9451333
Eilat* 6322444 Rishon* 9642333
Haifa* 8512233 Safed 6920333
Jerusalem* 6523133 Tel Aviv* 5460111
Karmiel* 9986444 Tiberias* 6792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Hotline for English-speakers – Crisis counseling and referrals, all ages, all problems. (02) 654-1111, toll-free 1-800-854-111.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon Lezion 956-6661/2, Haifa 867-2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6788.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-8310, 08-855-0508.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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Forget the lagers, four espressos please

NEVER mind Manchester United's exit from the European stage, or the continuing frothy soap saga at Newcastle (angry fans were seen at the home defeat by Crystal Palace on Wednesday throwing their replica shirts at the directors' box).

The real news of the week concerns a report in a Sunday newspaper that Sky Television are considering moving the Premiership fixtures to a Sunday and introduce a massive pay-per-view scheme.

Premiership spokesman Mike Lee told reporters that the plan to move fixtures was "nonsense" but it appears that the proposal is on the agenda for the next quarterly meeting of Premiership clubs, with all the talk of this country losing its identity as it moves closer to a single European currency, the final bastion of your solid piece of England – the Saturday afternoon 3p.m. kick-off could be for the chop.

Somehow, you can't imagine your average English fans dropping into the local bar on a Sunday and ordering four espressos instead of the usual lagers.

Britain is now virtually isolated within the European soccer fold after Manchester United's demise at the hands of Monaco. While the experts were unanimous in their praise for Monaco, United manager Alex Ferguson came in for some criticism of his post-match press conference in which his praise for the French team was conspicuous by its absence. Instead, Ferguson remarked that despite the extensive injury list, the team had played well, and that European referees are not as good as their English counterparts.

According to fans on a phone-in conducted by BBC Radio after the game, Ferguson's inability to give praise when defeated is the very reason why Manchester United are unpopular.

LONDON CALLING
By MARK RIVLIN

ONE manager who is tasting success against the odds is Southampton's David Jones. The likable Liverpudlian, who joined Southampton after taking Stockport County to the First Division, has raised a few eyebrows this season as Southampton have already virtually secured their Premiership status following a recent excellent run of form.

Jones has spent the equivalent of a child's weekly pocket money on players. He has traveled all over the world looking for players, and has clocked up 50,000 miles in his car in the last four months. Eventually he decided that there was enough local talent to see Southampton out of trouble.

He has invested wisely, Kevin Richardson, Carlton Palmer, David Hirst, Paul Jones have proved to be the shrewdest purchases of the season. And striker Kevin Davies, bought by the previous Southampton boss Graeme Souness for £750,000 from Chesterfield last season, is now attracting interest from the big clubs.

NOW, hands up if you have heard of *Sport First*. This is a sports tabloid which hit the news stands last week and it appears, is still on the same stands this week. *The Observer* described the paper's launch as "Barely a whimper, with pages it has a lot of space but not much substance."

Like *Sportsworld* and *Sportsweek* before it, *Sports First* appears to be on its way to oblivion. There just isn't the market in this country for an equivalent of *L'equipe* or *La Gazzetta dello Sport*.

THE latest fad in television over here is the fly-on-the-wall documentary. From noisy neighbors to managing supermarkets, the cameras are there to record ordinary people going about their everyday business. And with football the ubiquitous barometer of the mood of the country, it didn't take long for the cameras to reflect everyday life at a top club. "Premier Passions," a four-part documentary on the progress of Sunderland Football Club in the 1996-7 season, has kept us glued to our screens for the past month – despite the fact that those of us interested in football already knew the answer to the question which the program posed. Would Sunderland begin the 1997-8 campaign in its spanking new stadium in the Premier League or First Division?

The main characters in this larger-than-life soap were manager Peter Reid and a group of fans representing all classes who, despite the club's relegation to the First Division, were able to keep a smile on their faces.

It would have been difficult for Quentin Tarantino to better Reid's dialogue. His half-time team talks were quite simply, a revelation. Not only did he manage to insert the 'f' word into most sentences, he also had an uncanny talent for inserting it within a phrasal verb. "The way you are f...ing playing, you are f...ing going f...ing down," Reid pointed out during a particularly gruelling display at home to Tottenham.

Unfortunately for the fans, he was right. Not surprisingly, the BBC was inundated with furious viewers appalled at the language. Reid, as mild mannered a chap as you could hope to meet, apologized, explaining that the program reflected the reality of football life adding that his mum would be upset by the language.

But Reid is certainly enjoying life this season as Sunderland aim for a quick return to the Premiership. And with almost 40,000 fans packing the new Stadium of Light, relegation from the Premiership hardly seems to have mattered.

FINALLY to the one English team remaining in Europe, Chelsea, who overcame Real Betis in the quarter finals of the Cup Winners' Cup. Betis president Ruiz de Lopera admitted after the game that he had been planning to give his players a box of chocolates and a win bonus. Following the defeat Senor de lopera reduced his offer to two fruit bars. As Peter Reid would undoubtedly have it – two effing fruit bars.

Sampras, Seles ousted from Lipton Championships

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (Reuters) – Pete Sampras's hold on the world No. 1 ranking grew extremely precarious on Monday when he was shocked by 36th-ranked Wayne Ferreira of South Africa at the Lipton Championships.

Sampras sailed through the first set unscathed and held two match points in a second-set tiebreak before losing the third-round contest 0-6 7-6 (8-6) 6-3.

"I'm just kind of sitting in the locker room, sitting here in shock that I lost this match," Sampras admitted.

"Obviously, I'm lacking a little bit of confidence these past couple of weeks." With Sampras's ouster, three players are in position to ascend to No. 1 this week – second-ranked Czech Petr Korda, third-ranked Marcelo Rios of Chile and fifth-ranked Greg Rusedski of Britain.

Sampras was not about to run up the white flag just yet.

"The year is very young. There's a lot of tennis yet to be played, a lot of big tournaments coming up," said Sampras, who has one title in five tournaments this year.

The second-seeded Korda, a 6-4 4-6 6-3 winner over Spain's Francisco Clavet on Monday, could displace Sampras by reaching the semifinals. Rios or Rusedski need to win the tournament to seize the ranking Sampras has held for 102 consecutive weeks.

Rusedski, runner-up to Rios last week in Indian Wells, kept his chances alive with a 6-1 7-6 (10-8) third-round win over Marc Rosset of Switzerland.

While the status of the men's No. 1 is in jeopardy, former women's No. 1 Monica Seles receded further by falling to Russian up-and-comer Anna Kournikova 7-5 6-4.

The 17-year-old Kournikova's win over role model Seles, 24, lifted her to a fourth-round match against ninth seed Conchita Martinez.

Seles, once known for her trademark grunt and powerful groundstrokes, had just 16 winners to Kournikova's 33. In the end, it was Kournikova letting out a victory squeal.

In fourth-round matches, women's top seed and world No. 1 Martina Hingis advanced over 13th-seeded Sandrine Testud of France 6-3 5-7 6-2, while No. 2 Lindsay Davenport cruised to a 6-1 6-2 victory over another Frenchwoman, 12th seed Nathalie Tauziat.

Third seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic also had an easy time, beating 14th-seeded German Anke Huber 6-2 6-2.

Sixth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa was not so fortunate, falling 6-7 (3-7) 6-2 6-1 to Silvia Farina of Italy.

SPORTS
in brief

Gascoigne joins Middlesbrough

GLASGOW (Reuters) – Rangers and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne is joining first division Middlesbrough in a three-and-a-half-year deal, it was announced last night.

Midlesbrough manager Bryan Robson confirmed the move to Sky television. The deal taking him from the Scottish champions to the English club is subject to a medical.

Caesarea golf

Cyril Kaufman won the A division of last week's individual stableford tournament at the Caesarea Golf Club.

He scored 38, one better than Zev Abraham's 37 while Mike Bannister also had 37 but with an inferior back-nine.

The best score of the day was the 40 points by Shmulik Futeran in the B division. Norma Kaufman was second with 37 and Amos Amir followed with 36. Yakov Zanati took the C division with 37 with Faith Spector second with 35 and Gerda Kessler third with 33.

In the national Coca Cola league after four rounds, Kfar Sava is leads with 27.5 points with Kfar Shmaryahu second on 26.

Heather Chait

Brazil still firm favorites to win World Cup

LONDON (Reuters) – Brazil, who play Germany in a friendly in Stuttgart today, are still firm 3-1 favorites to win this year's World Cup in France.

Germany remain 7-1 third favorites but those odds could change depending on the outcome today's match.

Hosts France are second favorites at 6-1.

Latest odds: Brazil 3-1 France 6-1 Germany, Italy 7-1 England, Netherlands 8-1 Argentina 12-1 Spain 16-1 Nigeria 20-1 Croatia, Yugoslavia 25-1 Belgium, Romania 40-1 Bulgaria, Colombia, Denmark, Norway 50-1 Paraguay 80-1 Austria, Cameroon, Chile, Scotland, South Africa 100-1 Mexico 150-1 Morocco, Saudia Arabia, South Korea, US200-1 Jamaica, Japan, Tunisia 250-1 Iran 300-1.

Punter still dreams of Redknapp as captain

LONDON (Reuters) – If Jamie Redknapp plays for England in their friendly against Switzerland today, it will rekindle the hopes of one punter of winning a £50,000 jackpot.

Seven years ago, when Redknapp was only 17, Liverpool supporter Alex Robb staked £250 at odds of 200-1 that Redknapp would captain England on or before February 1, 2001.

"Mr Robb has been waiting patiently for this bet to pay off," said William Hill spokesman Graham Sharpe. "Perhaps he'll turn out to be a winner during the World Cup."

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Jerusalem

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Cuban defectors hid in Castro-built shelter

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Four Cuban ballplayers and a coach evaded government authorities by hiding in one of the tunnels Fidel Castro ordered built to shelter Cubans from possible US attack, a US newspaper reported yesterday.

The ballplayers and four others, hiding out for days while they waited for seas to calm, "had to maintain silence because there was so much danger of us getting caught," Cuban baseball coach Orlando Chinea told the *Sun-Sentinel* of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, through the chain-link fence of the Carmichael Road Detention Center.

On March 10, Chinea pretended to be going about his daily business, then disappeared without a word to his wife and 12-year-old son, taking only some pictures of them.

The other ballplayers also left without telling anyone, traveling in rented cars to Las Tunas, an eastern city hundreds of miles from their province of Villa Clara. At Las Tunas, the athletes, wearing disguises, met four companions, Chinea said Monday.

"We were trying to camouflage ourselves to keep from arousing suspicions," Chinea said.

They moved into the abandoned tunnel, which Chinea described as one of hundreds of "people's tunnels" first built after the failed, US-sponsored Bay of Pigs attack intended to dislodge Castro in 1961. Construction continued into the early 1990s.

For five or six days, the group hid there, then moved into the basement of a friend's house for a few more days. They got rosaries from a local priest, who did not know what they were up to.

"It's been blessed by the pope," Chinea said, fishing out a white plastic rosary from under his blue warm-up jacket and kissing it. "He (the priest) happened to have nine. He gave them to some friends who brought them to us." With the rosaries, "we always thought we were being protected," he said.

Miami-based sports agent Joe Cubas has been working to keep the group from being sent back. Bahamian immigration director Melvin Seymour said Monday he "is hoping to return them home soon."

"We're very concerned," said Rene Guim, Cubas' spokesman. "If they step up the process to return them to Cuba, we have to step up the process to get them humanitarian visas."

In late December, the Bahamas permitted a group of Cuban ballplayers — including pitcher Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, brother of Florida Marlins pitcher Livan Hernandez — to seek asylum in Costa Rica. Orlando Hernandez has signed with the New York Yankees.

On March 20, Chinea's group boarded a 19-foot open boat with a single outboard motor at Puerto Padre. After 17½ hours, they were rescued by a Bahamian fishing boat.

With Chinea, 41, at the detention center are former Cuban national team catcher Angel Lopez, 25; first baseman Jorge Luis Toca, 23; second baseman Jorge Diaz, 23; and Michael Jova, 17, a junior Olympic shortstop.

Pippen leads Bulls to 6th-straight win

CHICAGO (AP) — Scottie Pippen scored 27 points, including 14 on soaring, forceful dunks, as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Boston Celtics 111-88 Monday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

Michael Jordan added 24 points and Dennis Rodman had 14 rebounds to go with a season-high 12 points for the Bulls, who have won 14 of their last 15 games against the Celtics.

Antoine Walker scored 26 points, but Boston still lost for the seventh time in eight games.

Pistons 94, 76ers 79

Allen Iverson was held to a career-low four points as Detroit, behind 20 points from Joe Dumars, won on the road.

Iverson shot just 2-for-14 for the Sixers, who came back from three 16-point deficits but could never quite catch the Pistons.

Grant Hill had 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Brian Williams had 14 points and 13 rebounds as Detroit won its third in a row.

Mavericks 91, T-wolves 87

Hubert Davis came off the bench to score 10 of his 16 points during a 20-2 fourth quarter run as Dallas rallied past Minnesota for a home victory.

Michael Finley had 27 points and Shawn Bradley added 16 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks for the Mavericks, who won for the third time in four games.

Lakers 107, Nuggets 86

Eddie Jones scored 27 points and Shaquille O'Neal added 24 points and nine rebounds as Los Angeles completed its second straight four-game season sweep of host Denver.

Kobe Bryant added 23 points for the Lakers, who sent the Nuggets to a franchise record-tying 62nd loss.

SuperSonics 109, Kings 83

Gary Payton scored 24 points and Hersey Hawkins broke a two-game scoreless drought with 16 points as Seattle ended a two-game losing streak with a home win.

The Sonics (51-17) moved half a game ahead of the Utah Jazz in the battle for best record in the Western Conference.

The Kings were without Mitch Richmond, their leading scorer at 23.4 points per game who was sidelined with a sore right knee.

Grizzlies 106, Clippers 95

Bryant Reeves scored 35 points as host Vancouver set a franchise record with its 16th win.

Reeves, who had 15 points in the third quarter, also pulled down 12 rebounds and blocked five shots as Vancouver ended a seven-game losing streak.

Detroit	28	18	18	30—94
Philadelphia	15	18	27	19—79

DETROIT (94) Hill 5-11 7-11 17, Reid 3-6 2-3 8, B.Williams 7-12 0-2 14, Dumars 6-16 8-8 20, Hunter 4-7 3-8 13, Stackhouse 3-10 9-9 15, J.Williams 1-2 3-4 5, Mahorn 1-3 0-0 2, Pollard 0-0 0-0 0, Henson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-67 32-45 94.

PHILADELPHIA (79) Thomas 4-8 1-2 10, Ratliff 1-6 4-5 6, S.Williams 4-4 2-2 10, McKie 0-4 0-0 0, Iverson 2-14 0-0 4, Coleman 8-15 9-9 25, Shaw 3-10 4-6 11, Snow 0-3 2-2 2, Smith 4-10 2-2 10, Benjamin 0-0 0-0 0, Davis 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 26-74 25-31 79.

Fouled out—Thomas. Rebounds—Detroit 55 (B.Williams 13), Philadelphia 49 (Coleman 13). Assists—Detroit 23 (Hill, Dumars 5), Philadelphia 20 (Iverson 8). Technicals—Coleman, Iverson. A—14,294

Boston	24	21	23	20—88
Chicago	30	26	24	31—111

BOSTON (88) Walker 10-20 4-5 26, McCarty 8-15 0-2 19, DeClerco 2-3 0-0 4, Mercer 3-12 2-2 8, Barros 5-8 0-0 14, Bowen 2-6 1-2 5, Knight 0-1 0-0 0, Edney 1-2 4-4 6, Minor 3-4 0-2 6, Tabak 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-71 11-17 88.

CHICAGO (111) Pippen 11-20 4-4 27, Kukoc 4-9 6-10 17, Rodman 5-10 2-5 12, Harper 3-4 2-4 8, Jordan 11-22 2-2 24, Burrell 2-6 0-0 4, Brown 2-4 2-2 6, Kerr 3-3 0-0 8, Buechler 0-0 0-0 0, Kleine 0-0 0-0 0, Simpkins 2-2 1-4 5. Totals 43-80 21-31 111.

Fouled out—Knight. Rebounds—Boston 38 (Walker 7), Chicago 34 (Rodman 14). Assists—Boston 24 (Barros 7), Chicago 29 (Kukoc 10). A—23,944

Minnesota	24	20	27	16—87
Dallas	20	16	25	30—91

MINNESOTA (87) Garnett 7-14 1-1 15, Mitchell 8-14 2-2 19, Parks 2-5 3-4 7, Peeler 10-22 1-1 23, Marbury 2-12 0-0 4, Hammonds 0-6 1-2 1, Roberts 4-6 0-1 8, Porter 4-11 1-1 10, Hurley 0-0 0-0 0, Jordan 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-90 9-12 87.

DALLAS (91) Finley 11-22 3-4 27, Green 0-3 2-2 2, Riley 0-3 2-2 2, Reeves 3-10 2-2 10, Strickland 3-9 0-0 9, Bradley 7-14 2-6 16, Davis 7-15 0-0 16, Muursepp 2-2 0-0 5, Wells 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 36-81 11-18 91.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Minnesota 59 (Mitchell 10), Dallas 56 (Bradley 12). Assists—Minnesota 18 (Marbury 6), Dallas 19 (Finley, Reeves 7). Total fouls—Minnesota 23, Dallas 17. Technical—Finley. A—11,274 (18,042).

L.A. Lakers	27	27	30	23—107
Denver	18	20	26	22—86

L.A. LAKERS (107) Horry 2-3 2-2 6, Fox 2-8 0-0 5, O'Neal 10-16 4-6 24, Fisher 1-5 2-3 4, Jones 10-14 4-4 27, Van Exel 3-6 0-0 6, Bryant 8-12 5-5 23, Campbell 2-7 0-0 4, Blount 1-2 1-2 3, Berry 0-2 0-0 0, Rooks 0-3 1-2 1, Bennett 2-6 0-0 4. Totals 41-83 19-24 107.

DENVER (86) Fortson 10-14 4-4 24, Ellis 6-10 4-4 16, Garrett 2-6 0-0 4, Alexander 2-8 2-2 6, Jackson 2-11 0-0 4, Goldwire 7-9 1-2 18, Newman 2-2 0-1 4, Battie 5-11 0-0 10, Lauderdale 0-2 0-2 0, Washington 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-73 11-16 86.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Los Angeles 49 (O'Neal 9), Denver 39 (Battie 7). Assists—Los Angeles 23 (Van Exel 6), Denver 23 (Jackson 6). Flagrant fouls—Fortson. A—17,171

Sacramento	22	18	14	29—83
Seattle	31	27	28	23—109

SACRAMENTO (83) Owens 2-5 0-0 4, Williamson 1-4 0-0 2, Thorpe 4-10 1-5 9, Abdul-Wahad 8-12 2-3 18, Johnson 5-12 2-2 13, Funderburke 3-7 5-8 11, Polynice 4-7 0-2 8, Dehere 7-11 0-0 14, Hendrickson 0-2 2-2 2, Stewart 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 35-71 12-20 83.

SEATTLE (109) Baker 9-14 2-3 20, Schrempf 7-11 2-2 15, McIlvaine 2-3 0-0 4, Hawkins 6-11 1-2 16, Payton 10-18 0-0 24, Ellis 1-5 0-0 2, Perkins 2-2 2-2 7, Kersey 1-3 0-0 2, Williams 3-6 3-3 9, Anthony 2-6 0-0 5, Zidek 1-5 2-2 4. Totals 44-84 12-14 109.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 41 (Polynice 7), Seattle 45 (Schrempf 10). Assists—Sacramento 19 (Johnson, Funderburke, Polynice 4), Seattle 29 (Payton 8). A—17,072

L.A. Clippers	28	12	32	22—95
Vancouver	29	28	27	24—106

L.A. CLIPPERS (95) Murray 3-8 5-8 12, Rogers 8-14 0-0 18, Austin 4-13 6-8 14, Piatkowski 6-11 4-5 20, Martin 2-12 2-2 7, Taylor 5-12 2-3 12, Wright 2-6 0-2 4, Richardson 1-4 0-0 2, Smith 2-6 0-0 4, Closs 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 34-89 19-28 95.

VANCOUVER (106) Abdur-Rahim 5-11 6-7 16, Smith 5-8 2-2 12, Reeves 11-26 7-8 35, Mack 2-13 0-0 6, Mayberry 1-2 0-0 3, Hurley 5-6 2-2 12, Lynch 3-11 1-2 7, B.Edwards 4-10 3-3 11, Chilcutt 0-3 0-0 0, Massenburg 2-5 0-0 4. Totals 41-93 21-24 106.

Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Los Angeles 54 (Wright 10), Vancouver 65 (Smith 18). Assists—Los Angeles 25 (Martin 6), Vancouver 28 (Mayberry, Hurley 6). A—15,382

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

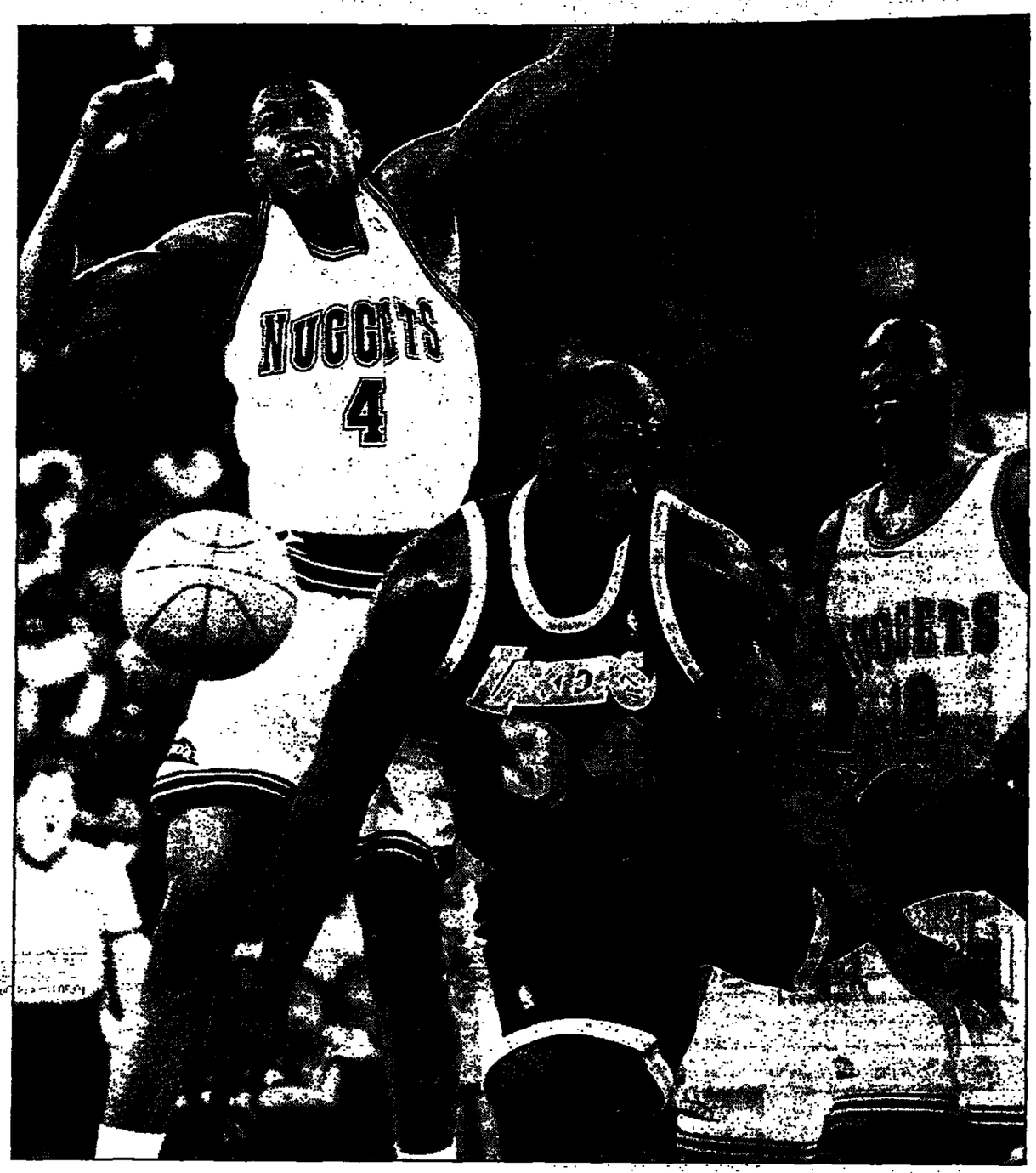
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	48	21	.696	—
New York	37	31	.544	10½
Orlando	35	33	.515	12½
Washington	35	33	.515	12½
New Jersey	35	34	.507	13
Boston	30	38	.441	17½
Philadelphia	25	43	.368	22½
Central Division				
x-Chicago	52	17	.754	—
Indiana	48	20	.706	3½
Charlotte	43	24	.642	8
Atlanta	40	27	.597	11
Cleveland	37	30	.552	14
Detroit	33	36	.478	19
Milwaukee	29	38	.433	22
Toronto	15	52	.224	36

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Utah	50	12	.746	—
x-San Antonio	46	22	.676	4½
Houston	36	31	.537	14
Minnesota	35	34	.507	16
Dallas	17	52	.246	34
Vancouver	16	52	.235	34½
Denver	8	62	.114	43½
Pacific Division				
x-Seattle	51	17	.750	—
x-L.A. Lakers	49	19	.721	2
x-Phoenix	45	23	.662	6
Portland	37	30	.552	13½
Sacramento	26	44	.371	26
L.A. Clippers	15	53	.221	36
Golden State	14	54	.206	37

x-clinched playoff berth



LOSING IT – Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal loses the ball while driving to the basket against Nuggets' Tony Battie (4) and Laphonso Ellis. Battie fouled O'Neal on the play. Los Angeles won 107-86. (Reuters)

NBA owners' reopening of labor pact could lead to lockout

DALLAS (Reuters) – The NBA Board of Governors voted overwhelmingly Monday to exercise the league's right to reopen the collective bargaining agreement, a move that could lead to a lockout.

NBA owners voted 27-2 to reopen negotiations and void the remaining three years of the six-year collective bargaining agreement. As a result, the agreement will now expire June 30, 1998. A simple majority vote, or 15 of the 29 teams, was all that was needed to authorize a reopening of labor talks.

"What we're seeing now is a system where salaries continue to rise and ticket prices continue to rise," said NBA Commissioner David Stern.

"It's our view that we're close to a system that works, but it doesn't quite hit it. We need a better system."

Owners had the right to set aside the final three years of the agreement if player salaries climbed above 51.8 percent of basketball-related income. According to NBA Deputy Commissioner Granik, projections show that actual salaries and benefits for this season will be 57.2 percent or $995 million.

"Although the league's revenue growth has been strong, player salaries are climbing much faster than revenues," said Granik. "As a result, the league is becoming unprofitable."

Granik said that at least half the teams in the NBA will lose money this season. "Last year, we calculated that 13 teams lost money, but we're pretty certain that at least 15 teams will lose money in 1997-98."

The NBA came close to a work stoppage prior to the 1995-96 season, when free agent signings were delayed and summer camps were postponed, but no games were missed. The NBA is the only major professional US league that has not lost games due to labor problems.

But if a new agreement with the Player's Association is not negotiated by July 1, a lockout likely would be imposed.

"In the negotiations, the NBA will not be proposing that players take pay cuts," said Granik. "In fact, we guarantee that salaries will continue to increase over the next several years.

We just have to get increases in player salaries in line with our increases..."

The two sides may negotiate changes to the rookie salary cap and clarify rules regarding disciplining of players in the wake of the Latrell Sprewell decision. An arbitrator last month reinstated Sprewell as a member of the Golden State Warriors and reduced the fallen star guard's NBA suspension for choking coach P.J. Carlesimo by five months.

A new CBA could also include a policy regarding the use of marijuana. None is currently in place and star players such as Chris Webber and Allen Iverson were arrested on marijuana-related charges in 1997.

One-legged man gets OK for Boston Marathon

BOSTON (AP) — Mike Welsch can run the Boston Marathon, and he can do it on one leg.

The amputee ran the marathon in eight hours last year, and organizers originally said that was about three hours too slow to qualify for the showcase race April 6.

Now they've decided Welsch's determination is enough, and they'll accommodate him when he joins the elite and everyday marathoners on the 26.2-mile (42-kilometer) run from Hopkinton to Boston.

"I am psyched and I will be there," he said after hearing the Boston Athletic Association decided to let him run. "I sure hope they don't change their minds tomorrow."

The 38-year-old first ran the Boston Marathon two years ago, and in December he began training again for the race. But he was stunned last week when he got a letter from the BAA saying he couldn't participate.

"He was not given an official number because he in no manner of speaking was qualified and this is a qualifying race," race director Guy Morse said Monday. "I've taken another look at Michael's situation and we will allow him to enter."

Morse said the BAA would arrange to have Welsch start the race about two hours before the other runners and arrange for his security and medical support along the course.

In 1979, Welsch lost his left leg in a motorcycle accident in which he was drunk. Even while his right foot was still encased in plaster, he put on his prosthesis and began riding a bicycle. Soon he was swimming and biking seriously and in 1986 Welsch decided to try a triathlon.

Three years ago, he set his sights on the Boston Marathon — the race's 100th anniversary.

For Welsch, however, the race is not important. It's the accomplishment, doing on one leg what most people can't do on two.

Tiger and Ernie: A rivalry is born

ORLANDO (AP) — Arnold Palmer saw greatness the first time he laid eyes on Ernie Els and Tiger Woods.

He was paired with Els, a 22-year-old from South Africa, at the 1992 PGA Championship. Palmer was so mesmerized by his swing that on the 17th hole, he offered Els a spot in the Bay Hill Invitational.

Nearly four years later, Palmer and Jack Nicklaus were playing a practice round at the Masters with 20-year-old Tiger Woods, who had won the first of three consecutive US Amateur titles.

They agreed Woods had the game to win at least 10 green jackets, which no longer sounds implausible after the way Woods won last year.

What better place for golf's next rivalry to take root than at Palmer's tournament? "You're probably going to feel it a lot more now," Els said of a rivalry with Woods after he won the Bay Hill Invitational, a 36-hole Sunday in which he left Woods and Davis Love III in his wake.

"Golf is healthy at the moment, so it's good that both of us play well."

Of all the great players in their 20s, no two have a more comparable set of credentials than Woods and Els. Both won a major championship in their first full season on the PGA Tour — Els took the US Open at Oakmont in 1994, Woods the Masters in his first try as a professional.

Both have six PGA Tour-recognized victories — Els is six years older, but also spends about half his time overseas, where he has won 21 times. Both are outstanding off the tee — Woods is about 20 yards longer — and have short games that are under-appreciated.

What makes this a natural rivalry is that Woods may be the one to finally bring out the fire in Els, who is so smooth it sometimes looks like he doesn't care.

Yzerman surge lifts Red Wings to tie Blackhawks 5-5

DETROIT (AP) — There is one reason, according to coach Scotty Bowman, why Detroit Red Wings captain Steve Yzerman has suddenly become productive again.

His name is Sergei Fedorov.

Yzerman scored two of Detroit's three third-period goals and assisted on the other Monday night as the Red Wings rallied from a 4-1 deficit for a 5-5 tie with the Chicago Blackhawks.

Yzerman has seven goals and nine assists in the 12 games since Fedorov returned from a season-long holdout.

"He's been playing well all season; now he's getting results," Bowman said. "Maybe that's one of the good things about Sergei being back."

Yzerman, who had two assists Monday, agreed that opponents can't concentrate on just one line or player since Fedorov's return.

"He gets the puck a lot and makes things happen," Yzerman said, "so it definitely balances the offense out."

Fedorov added a goal and an assist. He has two goals and six assists since his return.

The tie ended winning streaks for both clubs. Chicago had won its previous four; Detroit its last three.

"We can look at it two ways," Chicago coach Craig Hartsburg said. "The negative thing is we didn't hold the lead and let them back into the hockey game. We didn't win, but the positive is we came in here and got a point."

Detroit trailed 5-3 before Yzerman scored the Red Wings' third power-play goal of the game with 4:48 remaining.

Yzerman then tied it with 51.6 seconds remaining when his shot from just inside the Chicago blue line went through Chris Chelios' legs and deflected into the net off Chicago goaltender Chris Terreri.

Yzerman's four-point night left him just one shy of becoming only the 13th player in NHL history with 1,400 points.

Hurricanes 5, Panthers 3

Keith Primeau scored a pair of goals as visiting Carolina extended Florida's losing streak to 13 games. Florida had won all three prior games between the teams, outscoring Carolina 13-4.

That was before the Panthers fell into a two-month losing streak, while the Hurricanes climbed into playoff contention.

"We read the papers when we got to town, and they said they were going to break the streak against us," Primeau said. "We didn't want that to happen."

Carolina moved into a ninth-place tie with the Rangers in the Eastern Conference. Carolina and New York trail Ottawa by five points in the race for the conference's final playoff spot.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	42	18	9	93	194	135
Philadelphia	36	21	11	83	204	159
Washington	32	26	11	75	183	175
N.Y. Rangers	22	31	17	61	176	197
N.Y. Islanders	23	35	10	56	175	193
Florida	18	39	12	48	162	219
Tampa Bay	16	43	9	41	134	215
Northeast Division						
Pittsburgh	36	19	15	87	196	161
Boston	31	25	13	75	180	162
Montreal	32	28	9	73	198	175
Buffalo	28	25	15	71	173	159
Ottawa	27	30	12	66	163	174
Carolina	27	34	7	61	166	187

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	42	16	11	95	210	137
Detroit	38	19	14	90	216	171
St. Louis	36	26	8	80	205	168
Chicago	28	30	12	68	174	170
Phoenix	27	31	12	66	189	197
Toronto	24	36	9	57	158	198
Pacific Division						
Colorado	36	19	16	88	209	175
Los Angeles	32	25	11	75	197	179
Edmonton	27	34	10	64	179	199
San Jose	27	35	7	61	165	184
Calgary	22	34	13	57	185	209
Anaheim	23	37	10	56	171	217
Vancouver	r21	37	13	55	195	242

x-clinched playoff berth

Florida's woes continued. The Panthers are winless in their last 15. Florida's last victory came on Jan. 31 against Tampa Bay.

The loss moved the Panthers closer toward all-time futility. The NHL record for consecutive losses belongs to Washington, which dropped 17 in 1974-75.

Carolina	2	2	1	—5
Florida	0	1	2	—3

First Period—1, Carolina, Gelinas 11, 8:18. 2, Carolina, Primeau 21 (Roberts, Leschyshyn), 15:55. Second Period—3, Florida, Washburn 10, 1:27. 4, Carolina, Kapanen 25 (Chiasson, Primeau), 2:43 (pp). 5, Carolina, Grimson 3 (Kapanen, Primeau), 8:30. Third Period—6, Florida, Mellanby 12 (Murphy, Gagner), 18:31. 7, Carolina, Primeau 22, 18:52 (en). Goalies—Carolina, Kidd. Florida, Vanbiesbrouck. A—14,703

Chicago	2	2	1	0—5
Detroit	1	1	3	0—5

First Period—1, Chicago, Krivokrasov 10 (Laroux, Johnson), 6:40. 2, Detroit, Pushor 2 (Lapointe), 9:17. 3, Chicago, Moreau 6 (Kilger), 14:12. Second Period—4, Chicago, Amonte 26 (Kilger, More), 1:11. 5, Detroit, Lidstrom 17 (Murphy, Yzerman), 16:47 (ppl). Third Period—7, Detroit, Fedorov 2 (Yzerman, Lidstrom), 2:48 (pp). 8, Chicago, Daze 30 (Weinrich), 14:21. 9, Detroit, Yzerman 19 (Lidstrom, Shanahan), 15:02 (pp). 10, Detroit, Yzerman 20 (Fedorov, Lidstrom), 19:08. Overtime—None. Goalies—Chicago, Terreri. Detroit, Hodson, Manacle. A—19,983.

CRITICS' CHOICE

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ **THE SWEET HEREAFTER** — The grave beauty of Canadian director Atom Egoyan's film dawns on us slowly, its power diffused as if by a time-release capsule. In the simplest terms, the movie (based on a Russell Banks novel) tells the story of a deadly school-bus accident and its painful effect on the residents of one small town. But the intricate narrative structure of Egoyan's script – which weaves back and forth across the course of two years – bestows on the film the shifting, enigmatic quality of memory itself. As the film progresses, our understanding of the central catastrophe is subtly colored and altered by all that's preceded and all that we know will follow. With Ian Holm. (Not recommended for children.)

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

Jeremy Davenport, singer and trumpeter, won Most Promising Jazz Artist from the influential *Downbeat* magazine last year, and he's only 25. Not surprisingly, he's another young genius from the stable of Wynton Marsalis, with whom he studied more than a decade ago, but he got his start playing trumpet in the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Tonight he plays and sings at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem at 8:30 and on Friday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center at 10 p.m.

OPERA

HELEN KAYE

Rossini's romantic *Cenerentola*, or Cinderella, is the new production at the New Israeli Opera. It stars up-and-coming Mexican tenor Jorge Lopez-Yanes as the prince and Martine Dupuy in the title role. The conductor is Rossini specialist Alberto Zedda, and the director is Giancarlo del Monaco. Tomorrow at the Tel Aviv performing Arts Center at 1 p.m. (Italian with Hebrew supertitles.)



Jeremy Davenport sings and plays trumpet at the Israel Museum tonight.

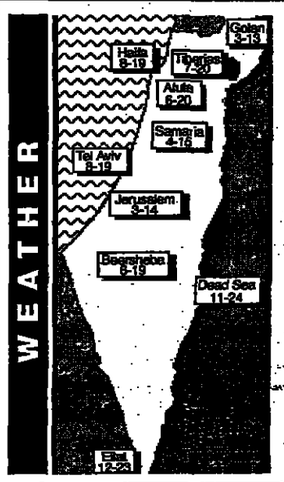
CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The second stage of the Ninth International Artur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition continues today at the Tel Aviv Museum (9 a.m. & 4), where each pianist presents a 60- to 70-minute free-choice recital that in most cases includes one of the two compulsory Israeli works in the competitions, Gil Shohat's *Sparks from the Beyond* and Eliezer Elper's *Toccata-Poema*.

A Window to Musical Cultures at the Jerusalem Music Center focuses today on the Arab music traditions of Israel, with workshops through the day and a concert at 9.

WEATHER



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	-01	30	06	43	p/cloudy
Beijing	04	39	17	63	cloudy
Berlin	-02	28	08	46	clear
Boston	01	34	06	43	p/cloudy
Buenos Aires	15	59	28	82	rain
Cairo	11	52	20	68	clear
Chicago	-01	30	07	45	clear
Copenhagen	-04	25	06	43	clear
Frankfurt	-01	30	04	39	p/cloudy
Geneva	01	34	10	50	cloudy
Helsinki	-10	14	04	39	clear
Hong Kong	17	63	22	72	clear
Jo'burg	15	59	29	84	p/cloudy
Lisbon	14	57	25	77	clear
London	04	39	09	48	cloudy
Los Angeles	14	57	26	79	p/cloudy
Madrid	06	46	24	75	clear
Montreal	-07	19	-01	30	cloudy
Moscow	-06	21	00	32	clear
New York	03	37	08	46	p/cloudy
Nice	x	x	x	x	x
Paris	x	x	x	x	x
Prague	-03	27	05	41	p/cloudy
Rio de Janeiro	24	75	32	90	p/cloudy
Rome	09	48	12	54	rain
San Francisco	13	55	18	66	rain
Stockholm	-09	16	00	32	clear
Sydney	22	72	26	79	p/cloudy
Tokyo	07	45	14	57	clear
Toronto	-08	18	02	36	clear
Vienna	00	32	06	43	clear
Warsaw	-04	25	05	41	clear
Washington	-01	30	11	52	cloudy
Zurich	-02	28	05	41	p/cloudy

WINNING CARDS
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance drawing
7 7 10 9
A J 8 7

WINNING NUMBERS
In yesterday's Wacky Lotto drawing
2 13 16 44
25 28 30

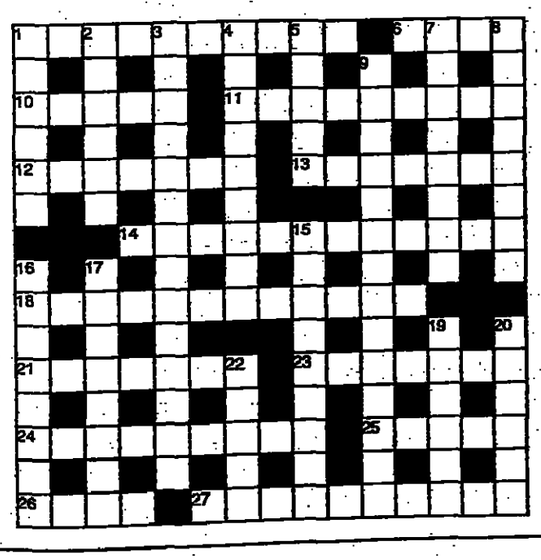
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

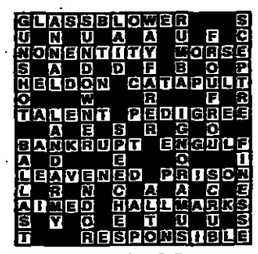
1 Small quantity of drink for unsettled leopard (5,5)
6 Eject from second seat (4)
10 Impressive, to be a member of 18 (5)
11 In popularity, top songs beaten by march (3,6)
12 City, as new as could be (7)
13 Produce an autumn festival (7)
14 Latin is precisely a way of communicating (4,8)
18 Allowed to roam, horses do foul upper chamber (5,2,5)
21 Withdrew soldiers, exhausted (7)
23 One duck in another vehicle (7)
24 Doubly popular return by opera conductor (9)
25 Hell had some points (5)
26 No expression of surprise from lifeboatman (4)
27 Get to opposite pavement at junction (10)

DOWN

1 Fairly splendid end? (6)
2 Optimistic gesture from conductor (6)
3 All geared up for this final practice? (5,9)
4 Fear hound's mad? Outrageous! (7-2)
5 Eligible bachelor has drawback (5)
7 Corrupt appointee came trickily into scheme (8)
8 Nelson provides this combatant with hold (8)
9 Charming marriage after her magical intervention (5,9)
15 So caustic about sound science (9)
16 Boy goes round Afghan town for furniture (8)
17 Leave port—sup tea to make a change (3,2,3)
19 Sports grounds where good chap mounts opera (6)
20 Flags—one is lifted (6)
22 Advantages of this appliance are so much hot air (5)



SOLUTIONS

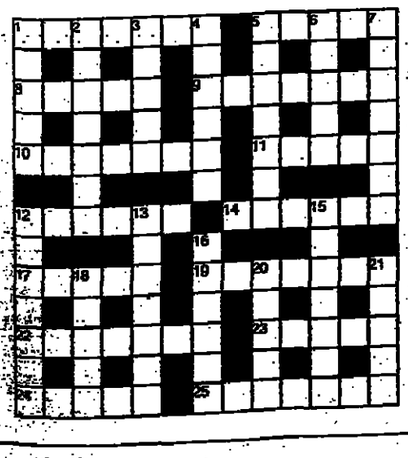


Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Overt, 4 Aching, 9 Neutral, 10 Latin, 11 Tier, 12 Obscure, 13 Ram, 14 Cope, 16 Aver, 18 Col, 20 Precise, 21 Lair, 24 Arson, 25 Sextant, 26 Heeded, 27 Total.

DOWN: 1 Ornate, 2 Exude, 3 Tire, 5 Colossal, 6 Intrude, 7 Gander, 8 Gloom, 13 Reliance, 15 Oversee, 17 Splash, 18 Cease, 19 Brutal, 22 Apart, 23 Exit.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Prayer (7)
5 Gleamed (5)
8 Crippled (5)
9 Fortified wine (7)
10 Innate (7)
11 Use forcefully (5)
12 Spanish capital (6)
14 Turn into bone (6)
17 Artificial fibre (5)
19 Two-line verse (7)
22 Grouse (7)
23 Heathen (5)
24 Old town magistrate (5)
25 Sour cherry (7)

DOWN

1 Panamanian port (5)
2 Restricted (7)
3 Large sea-duck (5)
4 Commotion (6)
5 Misery (7)
6 Oily fruit (5)
7 Precisely (7)
12 Director (7)
13 Dishonourable (7)
15 Unlawful (7)
16 Yell (6)
18 Parasitic insect (5)
20 Higher (5)
21 S American dance (5)

TV

■ **CHANNEL 1 (11)**

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ **EDUCATIONAL TV (11)**

8:00 Oriental Studies
8:30 Family Album
9:00 Sciences
9:25 English
9:40 Mathematics
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 Sciences
11:40 The Environment
12:00 Sciences
12:30 Music
13:00 Art
13:40 Cartoons
15:00 Huckleberry Finn

■ **CHANNEL 1 (11)**

15:30 Zap 1 and Super Ben
15:35 X Men
16:00 Byker Grove
16:30 Boy Meets World
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 Culture
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Where Are We Going?
19:00 Arabic News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 News flash
19:31 Pop Clips
19:53 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Conference Call
21:25 Roving Reporter
22:15 Sizes and Uniform – *tribute to IDF*
23:00 Grace Under Fire
23:25 Filmed on the Street
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ **CHANNEL 2 (22)**

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:43 Coffee with Tel-Ad
9:00 The Third Time
9:55 Thirtysomething
10:50 Picket Fences
11:40 Empty Nest
12:05 Brotherly Love
12:30 City Kids
13:00 Boogies Diner
13:30 Junior News
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 Timon and Pumbaa; Quack Pack
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Reshef
17:30 Sport TV
18:00 Port Charles
18:30 Before All
20:00 News
20:30 Ramat Aviv Gimmel
21:15 Hartzufim
21:45 Gov Night
22:50 The X Files
23:45 Homicide
00:00 News
00:05 Homicide (contd.)
00:45 M*A*S*H – the very first episode of American TV's finest black-humor series. Hawkeye Pearce (Alan Alda) offers his help to the leaders trying to put and end to the Korean War
1:10 Jazz Blues and Videotape Festival
2:05 The World's Most Dangerous Animals
2:55 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ **JORDAN TV (31)** (unconfirmed)

17:00 Holy Koran
17:10 Mr. Bogus
17:30 Conan the Adventurer
18:00 Oshoa
19:00 The End
19:30 Neighbors
20:00 Le Journal
20:15 French Show
20:30 News Headlines
20:35 Police Academy
21:00 Hollywood Remembers
22:00 Local Magazine
22:10 Kung Fu
23:00 News in English
23:30 Miniseries
01:00 Country Music
01:30 Local Current Affairs

■ **MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)**

15:00 TV Shop
15:30 Body Electric
16:00 Basic Training
16:30 The 700 Club
17:00 Larry King
18:00 Gerbert
18:23 Creation Station
18:45 Mort & Phil
19:10 Jack Hanna
19:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
20:00 Showbiz
20:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
21:00 Stockard Channing
21:25 Newhart
21:50 Movie: A Soldier's Story
23:30 Movie Magic
00:00 The 700 Club
00:30 CNN News

CABLE

■ **ITV 3 (33)**

Broadcasts alter coverage of Knesset sitting
16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Amores
17:30 From Day to Day
18:00 Wisemen of the Generations
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Telekessel
20:00 News
20:45 Smell of Mint
22:20 Royal Canadian Air Farce
22:50 Oba Oba – dance and song from the colorful Rio carnival
23:50 Entertainment Now

■ **ETV 2 (23)**

15:30 Riding High
16:00 Mathematics
16:30 South America
17:00 Bobby
17:30 Dear Brother
18:00 Dites Moi Tout
18:30 Matter of Taste: Cereals and Pulses
19:00 Oriental Studies
19:30 Vis-à-Vis
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Tastes
21:00 New 20th Century
22:00 Business Communications
22:15 Family Link
23:00 Upstairs Downstairs

■ **CHANNEL 3**

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Sunset Beach
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulce Ana (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 John Larroquette
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Murphy Brown
16:00 Dulce Ana
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Melrose Place
21:10 Profiler
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld
23:00 Ricki Lake
23:40 Law and Order
00:30 Babylon 5
1:20 Love Boat

■ **MOVIE CHANNEL (4)**

11:30 Dalva (1995) – a Nebraskan girl gets pregnant by her stepbrother and has to give up the baby for adoption. Twenty years later, she meets her brother again. With Farrah Fawcett, Rod Steiger and Peter Coyote
13:00 Special Report on Twice Buskila
13:20 Formula for Death (1995) – disaster film about an African virus on the rampage in America. With Nicolette Sheridan and William Devine
15:10 Hearts Adrift (1996) – a pretty girl and her widowed mother join a cruise with the mother's millionaire boyfriend
16:45 The Terror Inside (1996) – a young woman undergoing psychiatric treatment develops a variety of characters. With Heather Locklear
18:20 Two Mothers for Zachary (1996) – a young mother moves in with her girlfriend, and her mother sues for custody of the baby. With Vanessa Redgrave
19:55 Another Round (1992) – short film about a waitress in a cocktail lounge on Valentine's Day
20:20 Murder Between Friends (1993) – thriller based on the true story of two friends who accuse each other of murdering one man's wife
22:00 Deadly Takeover (1995) – thriller set in Israel. Terrorists try to take over a research facility. With Ron Silver
23:35 Stormy Nights (1995) – thriller about an architect who believes he was responsible for a man's death.
1:05 Red Meat (1997) – three friends sitting in a nearly empty restaurant talk about women and their conquests. With John Slattery and *Lara Flynn Boyle*

■ **CHILDREN (6)**

6:30 Cartoons
9:00 Oscar and Friends
9:05 Celestine
9:10 Surprise Garden
9:35 Oliver Twist
10:05 The Smurfs
10:30 Flying Classroom
10:40 Ninja Turles
11:05 Flying Classroom
11:15 Superman
10:45 Road Rovers
12:05 Flying Classroom
12:15 Different World
12:45 Hardy Brothers
13:15 Dennis the Menace
13:30 Ladybugs
13:40 Arthur
13:55 Care Bears Family
14:30 The Smurfs
15:00 Flying Classroom
15:15 Ninja Turtles
15:35 Flying Classroom
15:45 Superman
16:05 Flying Classroom
16:15 Space Strikers
16:50 Family Matters
17:15 Animaniacs
17:25 Hardy Brothers
17:45 Lois and Clark
18:30 Secret World of Alex
19:00 Nick Freno
19:30 Family Matters
19:55 Married with Children
20:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:45 Helen and the Boys
21:05 Sweet Valley High
21:15 Beverly Hills 90210

■ **SECOND SHOWING (6)**

22:15 Billy Budd (1962) – drama based on Herman Melville's classic, about a young incorruptible seaman who is court-martialed for the murder of an evil sergeant. With Robert Ryan, Peter Ustinov, Melvyn Douglas and Terence Stamp
00:15 Le Cercle Rouge (French, 1970, 134 mins.) – action thriller about an ex-convict who plans a daring jewel robbery. Starring Alain Delon and Yves Montand

■ **CHANNEL 8**

6:00 Open University
8:05 A Healthy Body
8:40 Seekers (rpt)
9:30 Poison People
10:00 Non Stop Goulda
11:35 I Love Mozart, I Love Barbara
12:45 Great Strides, part 4 (rpt)
13:15 Travelogue in France: The Riviera
13:40 Heart of the Matter – women and AIDS (rpt)
14:35 Body and Soul
15:10 Thomas Moore on Everyday Spirituality
16:05 Human Nature
17:00 Open University: Italian art series; The Mechanical Universe; Nutrition Pathways
19:00 Great Strides, part 5: Dragon Boat
19:30 Wild Skies, part 1 – new series on natural phenomena
20:25 Distant Worlds, part 1 – on remote parts of the planet
21:00 Body and Soul, part 2
21:35 Thomas Moore on Everyday Spirituality, part 2
22:25 Human Nature
23:10 Open University: Human Quest; The Great War

■ **NBC EUROPE (19/10)**

6:00 The Ticket
6:30 Wines of Italy
7:00 The News
8:00 Europe Today
11:00 European Money Wheel
14:00 Internight (rpt)
15:00 Time and Again
16:00 Flavors of France
16:30 VIP (rpt)
17:00 The Today Show
18:00 Art and Practice of Gardening
18:30 Awesome Interiors
19:00 Time and Again
20:00 Travel Xpress
20:30 VIP
21:00 Europe Tonight
21:30 The Ticket
22:00 Dateline
23:00 Euro PGA Golf: Portuguese Open
00:00 Tonight Show
1:00 Conan O'Brien
2:00 The Ticket (rpt)
2:30 NBC Nightly News

■ **STAR PLUS (18/15)**

6:00 Hindi programs
8:00 Oprah Winfrey
9:00 Mind Your Language
9:30 Heartbeat
10:30 Santa Barbara
11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
12:00 Hindi film
14:00 Wonder Years
14:30 Small Wonder
15:00 Hindi programs
18:30 Star News
19:00 'Allo 'Allo
19:30 The X-Files
20:30 Hindi program
21:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:30 Star News (rpt)
22:00 Newhart
22:30 L.A. Law
23:30 Dué South
00:30 Vegas
1:30 Oprah Winfrey
2:30 Fantasy Island

■ **BBC WORLD (13/14)**

News on the hour

7:30 Reporters (rpt)
8:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
9:00 The World Today
10:30 Earth Report: Guatemala (rpt)
11:30 Reporters (rpt)
12:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
13:30 Film '98 (rpt)
14:00 The World Today
15:30 Wild World: The Velvet Claw
16:00 World News and Business Report
16:30 The World Today
17:30 A Golfer's Travels: Thailand (rpt)
18:30 Hard Talk
19:30 Reporters (rpt)
20:30 Holiday (rpt)
21:00 The World Today
22:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
23:30 The Money Programme
00:30 London International Boat Show, part 2
1:10 Europe Direct
2:00 World News and Business Report

■ **CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)**

News through the day
6:05 News Americas
6:30 Showbiz Today
7:15 American Edition
7:30 World Report
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Insight
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 Moneyline (rpt)
10:00 CNN This Morning
10:30 World Sports
11:30 Showbiz Today
12:00 Larry King (rpt)
13:30 World Sport
14:30 American Edition
14:45 World Report: As They Like It
15:30 Business Unusual
16:15 News and Business Asia
17:30 CNN Newsroom
18:30 World Sport
19:30 Your Health
20:00 Larry King Live
21:45 American Edition
22:30 World Business Today
23:30 Q&A
00:00 News Europe
00:30 Insight
1:00 World Business Today
1:30 World Sport
2:00 World View

■ **CHANNEL 5 (05)**

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Basketball: Hapoel TA vs Maccabi Darom/Kiryat Gat
18:00 Speedo Water Polo
18:30 National League Handball
19:30 European Champions Soccer
19:50 National Volleyball Final – Maccabi TA vs Match Asher, live
22:15 International Soccer: Brazil vs Germany – live

■ **EUROSPORT (15/16)**

10:30 Eurogoals
12:00 Cycle Racing – from Australia
13:30 Rally – Portugal
14:00 Soccer – World Cup legends
15:00 Cycling
15:30 Showjumping
16:30 Tennis – Copenhagen preview
17:00 Tennis – Mercedes Tournament
19:00 Motorsports
20:00 Cycling
21:00 Mercedes Tournament, live
23:00 Bowling – from Mannheim
00:30 Soccer – Germany vs Brazil
02:30 Motorsports
3:00 Rally – from Portugal

RADIO

■ **VOICE OF MUSIC**

6:05 Works by Handel: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba from Solomon (English CO/Leppard); Largo from Serse (Philadelphia SO/Ormandy); Water Music (La Chambre du Roy/Malgoire)
7:07 Mozart: selections from Die Zauberflöte (Lorengar/Burrows/Talvela/Prey/Vienna PO/Solti)
8:05 Chopin: 5 Polonaises and Polonaise-Fantaisie (Pollini)
9:05 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition – Stage B
13:00 Artist of the Week – Murray Perahia, piano. Mozart: Concerto no 27 K595 (Europe CO); Chopin: Concerto no 2 op 21 (IPO/Mehta)
14:06 Encore – Film music by Bernstein and Rota
16:00 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition – Stage B
21:05 A Window to Musical Cultures - Arabic Tradition

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	News flash Pop Clips Filmed on the Street News		Beverly Hills 90210	Another Round	Matters Married with Children	Wild Sides
20:00		News			The Fresh Prince of Bel Air Helen and the Boys	
20:30		Ramat Aviv Gimmel	Melrose Place	Murder Between Friends	Sweet Valley High Beverly Hills 90210	Distant Worlds
21:00	Conference Call	Hartzufim	Profiler			Body and Soul
21:30	Roving Reporter	Gov Night				Thomas Moore
22:00			Yair Lapid Live at 10	Deadly Takeover	Billy Budd	
22:30	Sizes and Uniform		Seinfeld			Human Nature
23:00		The X Files	Ricki Lake			
	Grace Under Fire			Family		

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE The Distance 5 • Alien Resurrection 7:30 • La Promesse 9:30 • Edvard Munch 9:30 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Twice Bouskila∞Event Horizon 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Kiss the Girls 9:45 • The Jackal 4:30, 7:15 • Amistad∞Devil's Advocate 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Man In the Iron Mask∞Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:30, 7:15, 10 **JERUSALEM THEATER** Deconstructing Harry 7, 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Wag the Dog 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 **MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL** ☎ 5700868 Twice Bouskila 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 **SMADAR** ☎ 5618168 Sweet Hereafter 6 • Mrs Dalloway 2, 4

TEL AVIV
GAT Titanic 1:30, 5:15, 9 **GORDON** ☎5236992 Breaking the Waves 4, 7, 10 **G.G. HOD** 1-4 ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Devil's Advocate 4:30, 7:15, 10 • L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Rainmaker∞The Jackal 4:45, 7:15, 10 **LEV** ☎5288288 Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 7, 10 • Ice Storm 12 noon, 7:30, 10 • Sweet Hereafter 12:15, 2:45, 5, 7:30, 10 • Ulee's Gold 2:30, 7:45 • Career Girls 2, 5:15 • Mrs Dalloway 12:15, 10 • Mr. Baum 5 **LEV AVIV** Credit Card Reservations ☎6416841 The Thief 11:15 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 • Sweet Hereafter 11 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Brassed Off 11 a.m., 2:45, 5, 7:30, 10 • Ma Vie En Rose 11 a.m., 5:45, 7:45, 10 • Mrs Dalloway 2:30, 5:30 • Ice Storm 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 7:30, 9:45 • Fever Pitch 2:30, 9:45 **LIMOR** ☎6968084 Mrs Brown 6 • My Best Friend's Wedding 8 • Empire of the Senses 10 **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 Wilde∞Live Flesh 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad∞Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Center As Good As It Gets 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Wag the Dog 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • A Life Less Ordinary 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Wings of the Dove 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Face/Off 2, 4:30, 7:15 **RAV-OR 1-5** ☎ 5102674 Opera House The Full Monty∞Shall We Dance 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Afula Express 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 1:45, 5:30, 9:15 **G.G. TEL AVIV** ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Twice Bouskila∞Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 **TEL AVIV MUSEUM** Love and Death on Long Island 5, 8, 10

HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 8325755 Live Flesh∞The Thief 7:15, 9:15 **CINEMATHEQUE** August 9:30 **MORIAH** ☎8242477 Sweet Hereafter 7:30, 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 Event Horizon∞Twice Bouskila 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Devil's Advocate 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Amistad∞Midnight In the Garden of Good and Evil 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 **ORLY** ☎ 8381868 Seven Years in Tibet 6:45, 9:15 **PANORAMA** ☎8382020 Twice Bouskila 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Deconstructing Harry∞The Man In The Iron Mask 4:30, 7, 9:30 **RAV-CHEN** ☎8500055 Wag the Dog 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • My Best Friend's Wedding 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • As Good As It Gets 4, 6:45, 9:30 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • A Life Less Ordinary 4:45, 7, 9:30 **RAV-GAT 1-2** ☎ 8874311 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Face/Off 4:15, 7, 9:30 **RAV-MOR 1-7** ☎ 8416888 As Good As It Gets 4, 6:45, 9:30 • I Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Full Monty 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Wag the Dog 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Seven Years in Tibet 4:15, 6:45, 9:30 **RAV-OR 1-3** ☎ 8246553 Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Full Monty 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Shall We Dance 4:30, 7, 9:30

AFULA
RAV CHEN Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 6:45, 9:30 • Twice Bouskila 7:15, 9:30

ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 Twice Bouskila 7:15, 9:45 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 7:15, 9:45 • Wag the Dog 7:15, 9:45

ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 Kiss the Girls∞Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Deconstructing Harry∞Live Flesh 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 **ORI** ☎8568073 The Jackal 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8681120 Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • I Know What You Did Last Summer∞The Thief 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • The Full Monty 7:30, 9:45 • Home Alone 3 5

ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 Deconstructing Harry∞Twice Bouskila ∞Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Man In The iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎6711221 Wag the Dog∞The Full Monty∞I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎5531077 Event Horizon∞Wag the Dog∞I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

BEERSHEBA
G.G. GIL ☎6440771 The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Deconstructing Harry∞Event Horizon ∞The Thief 5, 7:30, 10 **G.G. ORI** ☎6103111 Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10

EILAT
EILAT CINEMA Titanic 5, 8:45 • As Good As It Gets 5, 7:30, 10 • Shall We Dance 7:30, 10 **GIL** ☎6340182 Event Horizon∞Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10

HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 Titanic 5, 8:30 • As Good As It Gets 5, 7:15, 10 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 5, 7:15, 10

HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎8902666 As Good As It Gets∞The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 10 **DANIEL** ☎ 9544044 Wilde 7:30, 10 • The Game STAR ☎ 9589088 Twice Bouskila 7:30, 10 • Titanic 5:15, 9 • Home Alone 3 5:15 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10

HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 Titanic 5, 8:45 • Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • As Good as It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10

KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9882521 As Good as It Gets 7, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • The Full Monty 7:15, 9:30

KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎7677370 Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 10 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Event Horizon 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10

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G.G. GIL ☎6905080 Titanic 5, 8:45 • Twice Bouskila∞The Man In The Iron Mask 4:30, 7, 9:30

NAHARIYA
HEICHAL HATARBUT ☎9829933 Shall We Dance 8:30

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G.G GIL ☎6561332 The Full Monty∞Event Horizon∞Twice Bouskila 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • Amistad∞As Good As It Gets 4:15, 7, 9:45 • The Man In The Iron Mask 4:15, 7, 9:45

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CHEN ☎ 9362864 Deconstructing Harry∞Shall We Dance 7:15, 9:45 • Sweet Hereafter 7:15 • Live Flesh 9:45 • The Thief 7:30, 9:45 **RAV MOR** ☎ 9493595 Twice Bouskila 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 • Wag the Dog 5, 7:30, 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

RISHON LEZION
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Browns Town renaissance in 1999

NFL awards expansion team to Cleveland

ORLANDO (AP) — Cleveland can give this move the old Dawg Pound salute.

With dog masks and "woof-woof-woofs" only 17 months away, Cleveland was awarded an expansion team on Monday that will take the field wearing orange and brown in 1999.

The unprecedented move restores one of football's signature franchises to a loyal city once known as Browns Town. From Jim Brown and Lou Groza to Ozzie Newsome and Bernie Kosar, Cleveland has its football fix back.

"It's great for everyone in Cleveland to hear this," said Kosar, the former Browns quarterback who is expected to be involved in ownership or management of the expansion team.

With unanimous support from owners, the league will expand to 31 teams, easing the blow from one of the most emotional franchise relocations in sports history.

Cleveland, a city without a pastime for two winters and counting, has been rooting for a new team — not a relocated one — to go with its new stadium and new owner yet to be named.

"After two years of not having a team and feeling that our hometown had been slighted, we're now over the hump," said Laura Martinez Massie of the Browns Fans Worldwide Network. "If we had not voiced our opinions, the owners would have thought we'd take anything."

The Browns will return to the AFC Central, playing their first exhibition game against Dallas in the Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio, next year. The first home game is set for Aug. 21, 1999 in a new stadium being built on the same site as old Cleveland Stadium, which was torn down after the move.

The $247 million, 72,000-seat stadium even features a replica of that famous section in the Cleveland Stadium end zone known as the Dawg Pound, where the most rabid Browns rooters roamed.

"A number of owners made very strong statements in favor of expansion, including Art Modell," said NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, referring to the former Browns owner who moved the team to Baltimore after the 1995 season.

Tagliabue also announced that the league hired Joe Mack as player personnel director of the Browns. Mack held that position with the Washington Redskins from 1989-94 and helped build the Carolina Panthers expansion team as assistant general manager in 1994.

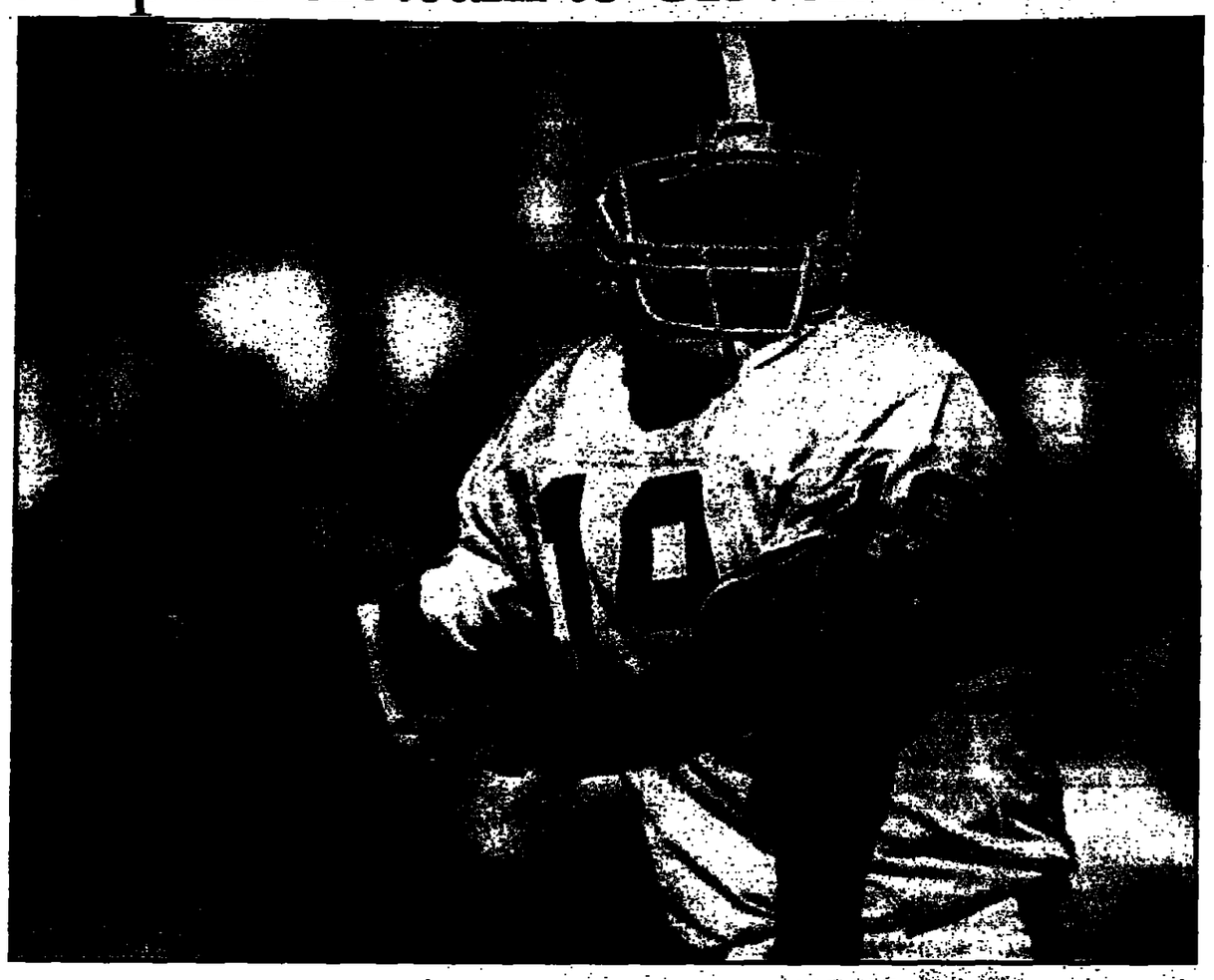
The front office will be assembled by George Young, retired general manager of the New York Giants and now a league vice president.

The league will now focus on taking applications for an owner and setting a franchise fee, which is expected to be in the $350 million range. Owners decided not to let those unsolved issues delay the Cleveland announcement any longer.

Although expansion was the expected option for Cleveland, the swift approval came as a surprise because a few owners, including Jerry Jones of the Cowboys, apparently were not sold on the idea.

"I was one of the people who wanted to get this done," said Modell, reviled in Cleveland after the move.

The agreement between the city and league calls for the new Browns to maintain their colors and history, including records and statistics.



UP FRONT – Former Browns' QB Bernie Kosar has put in a bid for ownership or front-office management.

Israel hopeful of Davis Cup success v. Austria

By HEATHER CHAIT

"If we lose this tie, it'll be a disappointment," said Davis Cup captain Shlomo Glickstein, referring to next weekend's crucial tennis encounter with Austria at Ramat Hasharon.

The winning country will advance to the playoff in September for the 1999 16-nation World Group.

"We're playing at home and they're without their two best players," was how Glickstein summed up the situation at yesterday's press conference.

Until February this year Austria had appeared the natural favorites. Then first Thomas Muster withdrew for professional reasons while the No. 2, Gilbert Schaller, later pulled out with a shoulder injury.

In their absence, Austria is expected to be represented by Stefan Koubek (152 in the ATP rankings), Wolfgang Schranz (205), Gerald Mandl (208) and Thomas Buchmayer (552). All are new to the Davis Cup.

Eyal Erlich (183). Eyal Ran (220), Noam Behr (262) and Amir Hadad (270) will comprise the Israeli squad.

Erlich and Ran are likely to be slotted into the singles matches with the proven duo of Erlich and Behr performing in the doubles.

Glickstein said that all his players are in good physical shape even though their recent results have not been remarkable.

"Our players have a good feeling about this tie but know how important it is," he said.

In the Austrians' favor, Glickstein cited their captain, Gunther Bresnik, for his vast Davis Cup experience.

Austria holds a 2-1 edge over Israel in Davis Cup ties, with wins in 1963 and 1978, but losing in 1985.

The matches will be held in the Canada Stadium, beginning on Friday and Sunday at 14:00, with the opening ceremony and doubles rubber on Saturday at 15:00.

Tickets for adults are NIS 25 with a family pass available at NIS 50.

Entry for soldiers is free.

Channel 5 will be broadcasting Friday's play live.

Absolute fighting – absolute madness

COMMENT

By JOE HOFFMAN

It's known by lots of monikers: Absolute – or ultimate or extreme or super – fighting, but it's nothing more (nor less) than bare-knuckle fisticuffs, and it's scheduled to come here next month as part of an international martial arts festival at Tel Aviv's Yad Eliahu Sports Palace.

"Not if I can help it, " said Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled, quoted in *Yediot Aharonot*. "It's anti-everything, and I shall do all I can to make sure it is canceled."

This type of competition took on world-wide notoriety recently when a match in Kiev ended in the death of American pugilist Douglas Dedge. It's literally a no-holds barred contest, which continues until one cries uncle, assuming he can cry anything at all. According to the rules of the competition, everything goes, except eye-gouging, hitting below the belt, biting, hair-pulling, scratching and kicking with shoes on.

The festival is scheduled for April 13 during the intermediate days of Pessah. Contestants for the entire competition, which includes the more traditional judo, jujitsu, taekwondo, karate, aikido and Thai boxing, hail from Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, the US and Hungary.

When questioned about the Kiev fatality, event organizer Amir Peleg said that deaths are rare and in the particular case in question, was due to substandard refereeing.

Peleg also noted that the fight in Kiev was not sanctioned by the International Absolute Fighting Council, which sent out a disclaimer that Dedge had never before participated in this competition and was unknown to council members.

Similarly, the World Vale Judo Championship stated that the fight in Kiev had been unsupervised.

Absolute fighting seems to be, at best, a hybrid cousin of boxing, if indeed there is any kinship at all.

Before the turn of the century, boxing, which was often referred to as the gentlemanly art of self-defense, was a bare-knuckle affair, with rules that varied from town to town and fight to fight. Regulation of the sport into a specified number of rounds together with permitted and prohibited punches and the administering of ringside first-aid, occurred only gradually as the Twentieth Century unfolded.

In 16th-century Italy, for example, fighters were tethered by a rope around their waists, long enough for one fighter to be down with the other left standing. The idea, of course, was to make it impossible to utilize defensive techniques and to duke it out to the bitter end.

The resurgence of absolute fighting appears to hearken back to those not-so-good-old days.

If certain political forces are at work today to ensure that Rabbi Avraham Hecht's appearance in Israel will be unpleasant, surely a similar across-the-board vigil could be maintained that any martial art played out on this soil is one where the goal is to win by scoring points, not to pummel into oblivion.

Hussain century leads England towards safety

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) – Nasser Hussain's first century against West Indies led England towards safety in the sixth Test yesterday.

After a series of heavy showers had delayed the start of the final day until after lunch, Hussain and Graham Thorpe batted through the afternoon session to take England to 275 for three at tea.

Hussain, who had completed a half century on Monday, played the major role in an unbroken fourth wicket stand of 148 with Thorpe.

His century, his sixth in 29 Tests, took nearly six hours, came off 289 balls and included 14 fours.

Hussain enjoyed one let-off at 74 when he hit the ball hard towards square leg where Courtney Walsh failed to hold a difficult chance to his left. He was run out when on 106 after the tea interval.

Thorpe's patient unbeaten 61 was compiled from 234 balls and included just three fours.

He gave an almost faultless display, although an edge into the slips fell just short of West Indies captain Brian Lara.

Zimbabwe-Pakistan

In Harare, some dazzling strokeplay by Saeed Anwar carried Pakistan to 58 for one from just 14 overs as they chased a victory target of 192 against Zimbabwe in the second Test yesterday.

Anwar's unbeaten 38 on the fourth day included six fours and a six.

Zimbabwe had made a good start when Pakistan set off in pursuit of their target by removing Azhar Mahmood for nine in the third over of the innings.

He tried to leg-glance fast bowler Heath Streak but succeeded only in deflecting the ball off the back of the bat to Alistair Campbell at second slip.

Despite a determined 81 from the consistent Murray Goodwin, Zimbabwe's second innings 268 total fell short of giving Pakistan a substantial target.

Israel to host Argentina at Teddy

By ORI LEWIS

Israel and Argentina will meet in a friendly soccer international in Jerusalem next month, a local sports official said yesterday.

Zion Turgeman, head of the Jerusalem Municipality sports department told *The Jerusalem Post* that the Argentines will play Israel at the Teddy Kollek stadium in capital on April 15. "We received a fax from them today (Tuesday) confirming their arrival, and tomorrow we will begin making arrangements for the match," Turgeman said.

Turgeman said that he expects the stadium to be filled to capacity for the encounter, which will include an entertainment program including the naming of Israel's outstanding soccer player over the past half century.

The Argentines will be making what has now become a traditional quadrennial pilgrimage to Israel. The tradition began in 1986, the year Argentina won the World Cup. In the encounter in Tel Aviv that year, Diego Maradona led the visitors to a 7-2 humiliation of Israel. In two subsequent visits also in Tel Aviv, Argentina won 2-1 in 1990 and 3-0 in 1994. The only other meeting between the two sides ended in a 1-1 draw in 1973.

Israel are currently on a three-match winning streak, having beaten Turkey 4-0 and Poland 2-0 at home last month, and Romania 1-0 away last week. All the matches were friendlies.

Media: Atherton should go

LONDON (Reuter) – Mike Atherton is on the way out as England captain after another lost series and poor performances with the bat, British newspapers agreed yesterday.

With his team struggling to avoid an innings defeat in Antigua, headlines at home already concluded his fate was sealed.

"Atherton heads for the exit" led *The Guardian's* back page, while *The Mirror* quoted former England captain Ian Botham as advising him to quit straight away.

"He looks very tired and as though he's not enjoying it," the all-rounder said. "Personally I would get out at the end of this Test." West Indies set England 373 to avoid an innings defeat on Monday, but opener Atherton celebrated his 30th birthday with a paltry 13.

"Birthday blues for Atherton as another flop spells end of his captaincy," headlined the *Daily Mail*, who suggested his opening partner Alec Stewart, who made 79, could be the next candidate for the job.

"Stewart assumed the mantle of authority as easily as he might slip into a new sweater," the *Daily Mail* said.

After Curtly Ambrose had Atherton leg before in the 15th over, *The Times* described the captain as resigned to his fate.

"His head on his chest, his steps so slow they barely propelled him from the scene. Atherton left the crease in a way that defied anyone to believe he could return," Alan Lee, writing in *The Times*, said.

Atherton has played 52 Tests as captain and has won 13. He is only the fourth player in 121 years to lead his country in 50 Tests.

England look to solve injury riddle

BERNE (Switzerland) – Glenn Hoddle, preparing his injury-ridden squad for a friendly against Switzerland today, believes England's defeat by Chile could prove to have been the turning point in their World Cup build-up.

"If we win here tomorrow (today), beat Portugal and go unbeaten into the summer, then probably our most important game was the loss to Chile," said an upbeat Hoddle, during a pre-match press conference yesterday.

"It took away a bit of the euphoria and let everyone know that we can't just put the shirts on and go win the World Cup.

"But I can only say that, if we get a win here tomorrow," Hoddle's main worry now however, is not last month's defeat by Chile at Wembley but the rash of injuries that have depleted his squad before their friendly against a fit Swiss side looking to impress new coach Gilbert Gress.

Because of injuries, Hoddle has seen his original 26-man squad reduced to 17 players – three of them goalkeepers.

Included among the wounded are six Manchester United players – all the United contingent except striker Teddy Sheringham – as well as stalwarts such as Arsenal captain Tony Adams.

Hoddle has been forced to draft in Liverpool players Jamie Redknapp and Dominic Matteo.

The two men were already over-age members of the under-21 squad and played a part in the junior match yesterday before joining the senior squad and a likely place on the bench.

Midfielder Redknapp, 24, is expected to be used as a sweeper in the under-21 match.

Defender Matteo, 23, is needed as cover for Sheffield Wednesday's Andy Hinchcliffe, whom Hoddle still describes as questionable.

In the face of his team's injury woes, Hoddle attempted to put a positive spin on the situation by looking at it as an opportunity to assess players.

"At the end of the day it (the injuries) might have been good," said Hoddle. "This could be a good game to throw in a few people and see how they handle it.

"The players are well aware that as soon as one door shuts another one opens for them and there are not many opportunities left between now and the summer.

Hoddle admitted during the press conference that he had been considering using the Swiss contest to field what might have been his starting line-up for France. But now that choice may not be made until the day before the opening kick-off.

"It might have been this game but that can't be," said Hoddle. "And it doesn't look like Portugal will be that game either.

Simmons recalled for one-day series

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) – West Indies have brought back all-rounder Phil Simmons, who has taken no part in the Test series, for the five one-day matches against England.

The first match of the series is in Barbados on Sunday.

Simmons, who has played 126 limited overs internationals, leg spinner Rawl Lewis and young fast bowler Mervyn Dillon were in the squad which toured Pakistan but have not played in any of the six Tests against England.

Squad: Brian Lara (captain), Carl Hooper, Philo Wallace, Clayton Lambert, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Stuart Williams, Phil Simmons, Junior Murray, Rawl Lewis, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Franklyn Rose, Mervyn Dillon.

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Hall returns to Newcastle, turns on tabloids

By GEORGE CAULKIN

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) – Sir John Hall returned as chairman of crisis-torn Newcastle United yesterday and immediately launched an attack on the tabloid press over their allegations of sleaze which caused two of the club's top officials to resign.

In an emotionally-charged press conference at St James' Park yesterday, Hall reflected on the "anguish" suffered by his family during the previous 10 days.

He was speaking after his son, Douglas, and previous chairman Freddy Shepherd finally resigned from the club's board after coming under immense pressure from fans, media and fellow directors.

In a swipe at the media, Hall said: "The vilification that Douglas and Freddy have been put through has been terrible to watch. Yes, it's been self-inflicted, but the question has to be asked: why were they targeted? "Are they MPs? Are they arms dealers? Was anything that was said in the public interest? The answer, self-evidently, is no.

So why were they set up, why were they the subject of such an elaborate and expensive trap?"

The pair had been under intense scrutiny since a Sunday newspaper alleged they had ridiculed supporters, described local women as "dogs," insulted star player Alan Shearer and sold striker Andy Cole to Manchester United knowing he was injured.

Announcing he was retaking the helm of the club he led from the brink of bankruptcy in 1992 until stepping down late last year, Sir John admitted: "The effect on the Hall and Shepherd families has been awful and the effect on Newcastle United has been sad to watch.

"Both Freddy and Douglas are full of remorse for what was said and cannot apologize enough for the pain that has been caused.

"However, anybody who knows them realizes that these events are totally out of character. What must not be forgotten is the fact that they've been great supporters of this region, creating jobs and prosperity in the area."

Earlier Hall had told reporters: "The most difficult thing about all this, as a parent and grandparent, has been trying to explain it to a sobbing child sitting in my arms. For that, I'll never forgive and I'll never forget."

Hall's decision to return to the club, at least until the end of the season, was broadly welcomed by Newcastle fans.

"We need stability now and he's probably the best man for that," said one season-ticket holder. "He's the one who took us to where we are now."